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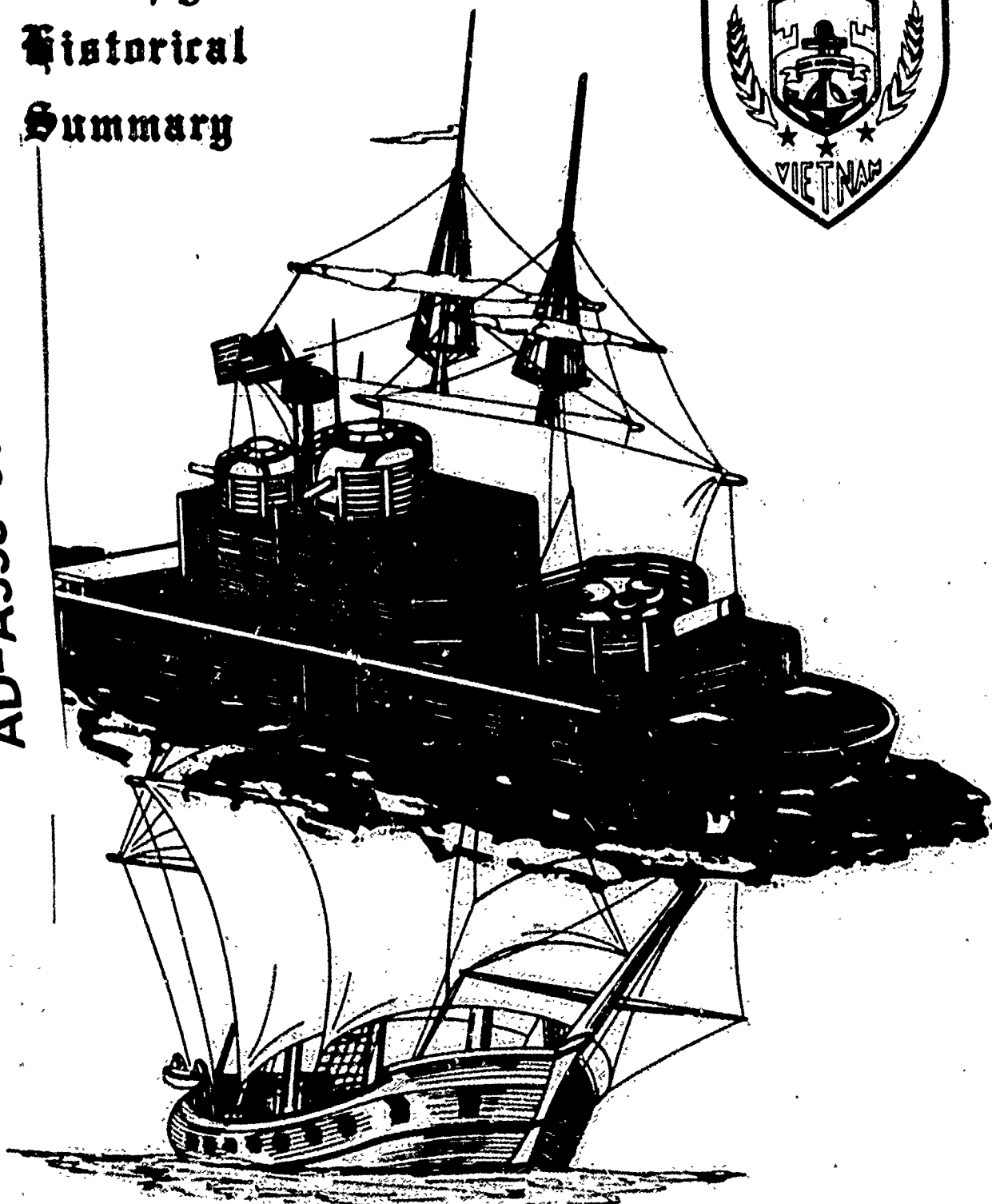
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**AD-A953 609**



**MARCH, 1970**

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REMARKS

Enemy activity during the month of March remained at the same low level that characterized the latter part of February. The enemy was again trying to make his presence felt without resorting to large offensive operations. His principal tactics were mining and sapper activities, especially in the I and II Corps, and abduction and assassination efforts used as part of his anti-pacification program to demoralize the populace.

In I Corps, Allied operations have pinpointed VC infiltration routes into populated areas and have thus hampered VC rice and medical collection activities. Toward the middle of the month, there was a movement into I Corps of one battalion of the 4th NVA Regiment from the northern DMZ. There was also another unidentified NVA battalion in the area. This activity may be the build up for a possible coordinated Spring-Summer offensive. This is in line with an increase in activity in the Sea Tiger AC in the enemy's attempt to maintain pressure. There was also a concentration of NVA units in the DMZ north of the Cua Viet River.

II Corps also saw the enemy avoiding large unit contacts and continued reliance on terrorist and harassment activities. During the second week of the month, however, the enemy changed his offensive position by staging three ABF's against the Cam Ranh Bay NAF/AB. Again, the nature of these attacks reflects his capability of harassment without committing his units.

Saigon and the III Corps area also saw gradually increasing terrorist activity. This activity reached a high point from 14-20 March when ten acts were recorded. Although the enemy seemed to be in a standdown

period, there was concentrated activity in the Rung Sat Special Zone, and recent events in Cambodia kept enemy forces along the border busy.

Enemy activity in the Delta and barrier areas of IV Corps was also light with no significant contacts reported although there were several attempts to infiltrate troops and supplies from Cambodia. The prime attempt was to move the 88th NVA Regiment across the border in the Barrier Reef AO, but there was no major movement of this unit reported during the month.

GENERAL SEA LORDS SUMMARY

During the month of March, combined SEA LORDS forces operating in the Giant Slingshot, Border Interdiction, Search Turn, Breezy Cove, and Ready Deck campaigns accounted for a total of 115 enemy killed (by body count) and 27 captured.

Friendly casualties for this period were six killed and 67 wounded. A breakdown of complete USN and VNA SEA LORDS statistics for March and statistical totals computed since the start of operations are located at the end of this section following the discussion of the various campaigns.



A Seawolf pilot watches as  
his rockets head for their  
target.

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### Giant Slingshot

During March, there was an average of 83 U. S. Navy and Vietnamese Navy boats available for daily operations in the Giant Slingshot Area of Operations (AO). The boats were used in performing escort duty, making troop lifts, setting waterborne guardposts (WBGPs), operating as blocking forces in support of land based units, and in a variety of support missions on the Vam Co Tay and Vam Co Dong Rivers. During the month, an average of 34 WBGPs were set daily.

The level of general activity throughout the Giant Slingshot AO seemed to be lower for the month of March than the activity noted in January and February. The number of enemy killed in January was 182, while 55 of the enemy were killed during February. Friendly casualties for the month of March were four killed and 25 wounded.

In late February in an effort to make a larger interdiction force available for night operations in the Giant Slingshot AO, COMNAVFORV proposed that USN/VNN liaison personnel accompany logistics craft which were transiting the Vam Co Dong and Vam Co Tay Rivers for the purpose of coordinating reaction forces in lieu of providing waterborne escorts during daylight hours. CTG 194.9 readily welcomed the proposal and indicated that river pilots could be made available in order to provide personnel riding on board the transiting crafts who were familiar with the AO and river navigation and who could also act as liaison personnel for requesting reaction force assets. It was also pointed out that in many cases

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in the past the fire power of the units being escorted was superior to that of the escort units.

On 10 March 1970, COMNAVFORV granted permission for CTG 194.9 to discontinue providing escorts for daytime transits of logistic craft except for designated special interest cargoes, such as ammunition, and unarmed craft. The general concept of the logistic craft transit operation was to be the convoy method. Liaison personnel would be provided by the Navy on request. These liaison personnel would board the convoy in the vicinity of the repair ship located in the Vam Co River and would act as the communicator between the transiting craft and various patrolling units or with the Navy Operations Centers along the route. In the event of an attack, reaction forces of artillery, air, boats, and/or troops would be coordinated through the liaison personnel embarked for the transit.

On 11 March, CTG 194.9 provided additional guidance for the personnel assigned to act as pilots and established a check point system for hourly progress reporting of the convoy. CTG 194.9 also specified that the pilots would be assigned counterparts as soon as possible for training purposes in view of the early May schedule for turnover of Giant Slingshot operations to the Vietnamese Navy.

As of 28 March, CTG 194.9 reported that since the implementation of providing liaison personnel for convoys transiting the Vam Co Tay and Vam Co Dong Rivers that all convoy units had arrived at their

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respective destinations without incident. The effort to increase the number of interdiction forces available for night operations has also been realized. The number of WEGP's established each night has shown an increase of at least five WEGP's per night and, depending, on the tactical situation, as many as ten WEGP's per night over the first half of the month when escort duties were performed for all craft transiting the rivers.

Another piece of hardware in our military inventory which the enemy is beginning to respect is the sensor device. A rallier recently revealed in a debrief with the NILO Tra Cu that the NVA consider that sensor devices are one of the most effective weapons being used in the Giant Slingshot AO. The rallier stated that he had been instructed that if a sensor was discovered during an infiltration attempt, the infiltrators were not to tamper with the sensor but were to clearly mark the area and quietly clear the area to a distance of at least 100 meters and move around the sensor always remaining at least 100 meters from the sensor. The rallier also stated that when artillery hits an area and no troops, boats, or aircraft are spotted nearby, the NVA always suspects sensors are located in the area.

Highlights of operational activity within the Giant Slingshot AO during the month of March are included in the following narrative descriptions.

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On 9 March, PBR's 865 and 869 were transitting north on the Vam Co Dong River when they were hailed by two local youths and were shown the location of a VC weapons cache at XT 457 048, approximately seven kilometers north of Tra Cu. The cache contained 12 82mm mortar rounds, three 61mm mortars, and one claymore mine. There was no contact with enemy forces.

On 10 March, a helicopter carrying a SEAL team went down at XS 520 790, approximately ten kilometers from Ben Luc. Within five minutes, another helicopter, piloted by LCDR Cleveland, landed and picked up six passengers and crewman of the downed helo. A second rescue helicopter followed on and picked up the remaining two crewmembers. All personnel were returned to Ben Luc without injury. A SEAL team was returned to the scene and inserted by helicopter to guard the downed aircraft. The downed helicopter was lifted out and returned to Ben Luc within three hours after losing power and going down.

Late in the evening of 9 March, PBR 708, under Boat Captain EN2 Myers, and PBR 774, under Boat Captain EN2 Girouard, were in WBGF at XS 335 840, approximately five kilometers from Tuyen Nhon. The units, under Patrol Officer BMC Smock, sighted seven VC crawling toward PBR 708. The VC were in the process of disconnecting a claymore mine which had been placed and was being controlled from the PBR. The boats took the VC under fire and received AK-47 return fire. Artillery and air assistance was requested, but, due to other units being in contact, no assistance was immediately available.

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The PBR's then commenced to mortar the area and suppressed the enemy fire. Shortly after midnight, PBR's inserted troops from FSB Gettysburg. The troop sweep located multiple trails and a staging area of a large size enemy force.

On 12 March, a PBR of RIVDIV 511, while in WBGF at WS 945 984, ten kilometers from Moc Hoa, received a grenade on the boat. The forward gunner threw the grenade overboard. The two PBR's in the WBGF then broke WBGF and received automatic weapons fire. Air assistance was requested, but on arrival, the Seawolves were unable to conduct an air strike due to low visibility and fog. The boats reset the WBGF in the same location with no further incident.

In the morning of 15 March, PBR 866 under Boat Captain EN1 Parker, PBR 868 under Boat Captain EN1 Girard, and 7-5 under Boat Captain GMG1 Bishop were transitting at XT 456 046 when they were hailed by children from Hiep Hoa. The children said that they knew the location of a cache and would point it out. The boats returned to Tra Cu to embark their Commanding Officer, LCDR Brennan, and to get U. S. Army ground support elements. The boats then proceeded to XS 472 996, approximately two kilometers from Tra Cu, utilizing a U. S. Army unit for protection and Seawolves for cover. The cache was found in a 55 gallon oil drum. In the oil drum were seven 105mm projectiles that were rigged with a booby trap device, 21 Chicom grenades in a wooden box. The cache was in poor, but usable condition.

This was the fourth cache turned in by these children. Since their lives may be in danger because they have cooperated with the U. S./VN Navy, they were brought to the District Chief so steps could be taken to protect them.

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On 17 March, PBR's 742 and 772 of RIVDIV 551, with Boat Captains MM1 Hinds and TM1 Fallon embarked, were in WBGD at XS 337 843, approximately six kilometers northeast of Tuyen Nhon on the Industrial Canal, sighted approximately 20 VC in single file approaching their position. When the VC were within about 100 meters, PBR 772 opened fire. Air and artillery assistance was immediately requested. The units began receiving AK-47 return fire. At 2205H, the units observed a large secondary explosion. Black Ponies arrived and placed strikes in the contact area from 2209H to 2218H. FS3 Gettysburg fired artillery into the area from 2223H to 2315H. At 2325H, troops from FSB Gettysburg were inserted for a sweep, and another sweep was conducted by RIVDIV 551 personnel at first light. The sweeps produced the following items captured in action: one anti-tank grenade, 28 assorted hand grenades, eight B-40 rocket warheads with boosters, two boxes of fuses, seven packages of C-4 totaling 20 pounds, two rolls of time fuses, three AK-47 clips, 315 individual rounds of AK-47 ammunition, seven gas masks, assorted medicines, 52 battle dressings, three pounds of documents, 100 pounds of rice and other food stuffs, 15 pounds of clothing, 55 rounds of 9mm ammunition, 30 non-electrical blasting caps, 40 green plastic bags used for floating supplies across waterways, and two zero-time booby trap grenades.

MM1 Robert D. Hinds suffered a minor shrapnel wound to the right arm in this encounter. Seven VC were known to have been wounded.

On 18 March, Vietnamese units HQ 5144 and HQ 5147, with embarked advisors EN3 Prokup and BM1 Herrea, were in WBGD at XT 247 353, approximately

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17 kilometers from Go Dau Ha. At 2330H, the units had observed debris floating close by the boats. A concussion grenade was dropped with negative results. At 2335H, HQ 5144 was struck by a floating mine on the port side amidships. The explosion caused a temporary loss of communications and progressive flooding. HQ 5147 proceeded to assist in the evacuation of the stricken boat and provided fire support. HQ 5144 was flooded up to the main deck at the time of the evacuation.

EM3 Prokup suffered a laceration on the back of the head. Five Vietnamese sailors were also injured - none seriously.

Early in the morning of 20 March, one of the mortar pits of Advanced Tactical Support Base (ATSB) Ban Keo reported sighting swimmers in the water. The base went to General Quarters. All the boats available commenced a concussion grenade barrage around the ammi. The barrage apparently killed one swimmer. A second swimmer was seen under a hooch and was fired upon but escaped. Personnel of the base then conducted a thorough search of the area with grappling equipment. One mine attached to an inflated rubber life ring was retrieved.

Later in the day, a USN EOD Team destroyed the mine which was composed of approximately 50 pounds of Chicom C-4. During the process of destroying the mine, U. S. Arm. Tug Boat ST-1992 reported discovering a second mine down stream approximately 200 meters and across the river. The discovery was made when a crewman spotted a piece of nylon line floating on the surface. The crewman had

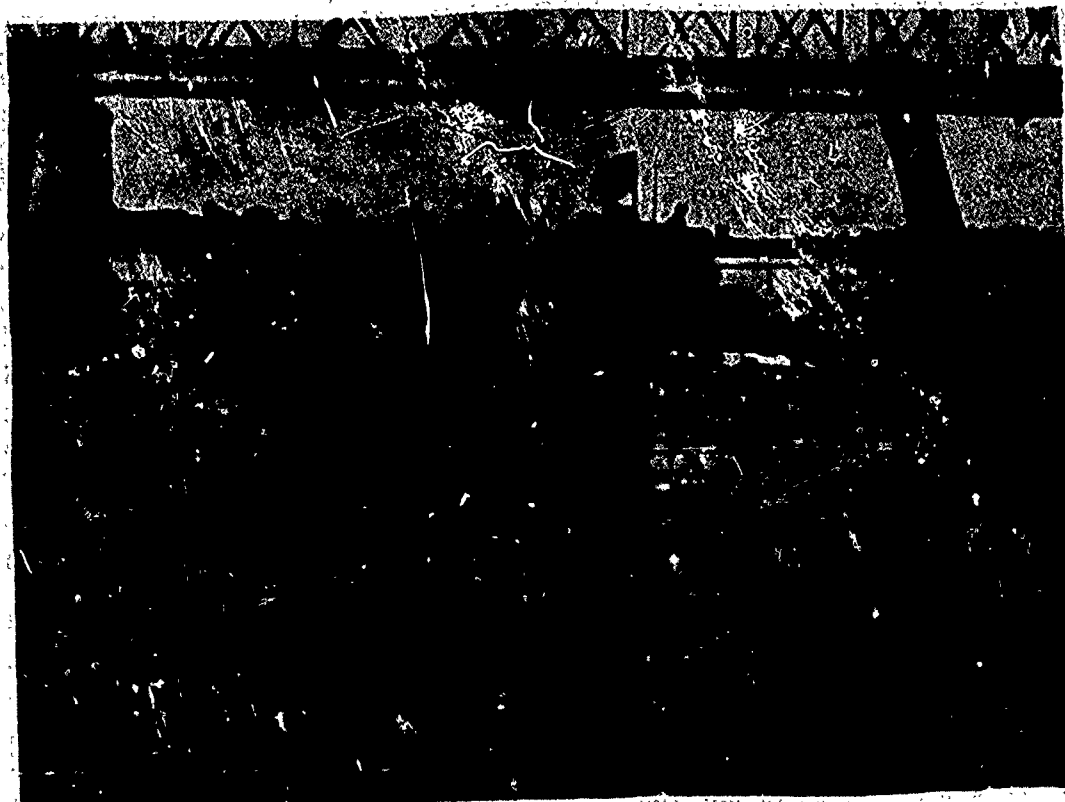
picked up the line and attempted to pull the line on board. The line parted while the crewman was trying to retrieve the line but not before the crewman saw that there was a mine attached to the line. Concussion grenades were dropped in an attempt to explode this second mine. The second mine did not detonate and is on the bottom of the river but is considered to be harmless after the concussion grenades failed to make the mine explode. At 210700H, the body of the second swimmer floated to the surface near the scene of the previous night's incident.

In the afternoon of 20 March, three boys from Hiep Hoa once again hailed PBR units and reported that they knew the location of a cache. The troops took the boys to the cache site, recovered the cache, and returned to Tra Cu. The cache consisted of six new baseball CS grenades, six booby trapped 105mm artillery rounds, and six electrical detonators. This was the sixth cache turned in by the same group of boys.

From 19 March through 22 March, SM1 Beam, who bills himself as "Tenkokai," Master Hypnotist and Magician, conducted a four day tour of the Giant Slingshot bases. He entertained the personnel with magic and hypnotic shows. "Tenkokai's" performances were very well received and most appreciated.

On 23 March, the youths from Hiep Hoa once again hailed passing patrol units. The boys turned over two AK-47 magazines, three 60mm mortar rounds, two 82mm mortar rounds, and eight mackerel can booby





A PD patrol passes under the Tan An Bridge on its way to Tra Cu.

traps. On the following day, the same boys hailed passing boats and informed them that six VC had crossed the river and were proceeding to the west.

On 31 March, PBIC's were transitting when hailed by the three youths from Hiep Hoa. The boys claimed that their lives had been threatened by the VC. The boys had been told they would be killed by the VC within three days. The youths were taken into protective custody and then delivered to the protection of the District Chief. The District Chief assured CTC 194.9 that sufficient Regional Forces and Police were available to insure the protection of the youths.

The youths have thus far led friendly forces to seven caches and have provided friendly forces with information on at least one river crossing by VC forces.

### Operation Ready Deck

Operation Tran Hung Dao V/Ready Deck, while strictly under VNN operational control has continued to carry the SEA LORDS designator TG 194.6. In order to clarify the situation, the present SEA LORDS link with CTG 194.6 was stated to be primarily administrative in nature. The chain of operational control is from CNO, VNN, to Commander III Riverine Area to Commander Tran Hung Dao V/Ready Deck. At the end of the month, the departure of all of the RPG 51 assets from the area signalled the planned arrival and break in operations for all of RPG 52 and the departure of River Division 593 scheduled to be completed by the first part of April.

As of 31 March, the following units were committed to Operation Tran Hung Dao V/Ready Deck.

<u>Designation</u>	<u>Type of Unit</u>	<u>Number of Units Assigned</u>
TG 194.6 (Whaler)	Whaler	1
TU 194.6.1 (RIVDIV 593)	PBR	10
RPG 52	PBR	8
RAG 24	RAC	18

Operating on the Saigon and Thi Tinh Rivers within an area approximately 43 miles in length that extends from four miles south of Phu Cuong (XT 810 780) upstream to Tri Tam (XT 480 460), the Tran Hung Dao V forces conducted WBGP's, river patrols, search and destroy operations, troop support, PSYOPS missions and ACTOV training in conjunction with the ground units, the 1st Infantry Division, USA, the 5th ARVN Division, and local RF's/PF's, that have adjacent AO's.

The night WBGP which has successfully interdicted numerous enemy movements across the rivers and streams in the past months detected almost a negligible number in March. The few incidents that did occur appeared to reflect the enemy's increased efforts to rid themselves of the tenacious allied river craft by employing ambush techniques on transiting units or by initiating a fire fight with the toss of a grenade at the boats positioned in a WBGP,

The extremely low level of enemy activity that was experienced in the AO throughout the month was concomitant with intelligence reports that indicated that March was to be a period of reorganization and training as part of the enemy's forthcoming spring campaign which was considered to have begun on the evening of 31 March - 1 April when there was a marked increase in the number of enemy engagements throughout the 3rd CTZ. What action that did occur during the month was primarily concentrated in the frequently active area six miles northwest of Phu Cuong (vicinity XT 720 220).

The following narrative includes examples of the more significant incidents that occurred in the Tran Hung Dao V/Ready Deck AO.

While transiting south on the Saigon River 20 miles northwest of Phu Cuong (XT 526 362) on the afternoon of 12 March, RIVDIV 593 PBR's 761, 756, and 842, under the command of LTJG Hunter, were ambushed by four B-40 rockets and heavy automatic weapons fire from approximately 10 to 15 enemy soldiers positioned along the west bank of the river. The PBR's returned the fire, cleared the area, and

called for artillery and helo assistance from the 25th Infantry Division, USA. The Army C and C helos arrived on the scene and evacuated the wounded, LTJG Hunter, BT3 Thompson, and BMC Rhea and the fatally wounded GMOSH Jacaruso to Cu Chi. Artillery was placed in the area, and an Army LHFT expended all its ordnance before departing the area. Following the air strikes and artillery firings, the PBR's began their long transit to Phu Cuong.

Later in the month, on 28 March, PBR's 842 and 756 of RIVDIV 593, with LT Mc Cumber in charge were guided by a Hoi Chanh on a search and destroy mission along a small stream six miles northwest of Phu Cuong (XT 722 222). Four large bunkers and one firing position were destroyed, and small amounts of food, personal clothing, and equipment were captured. Two of the bunkers displayed extremely fresh food that indicated they had been used within the previous hour.

That evening, LTJG Dougherty with PBR's 756 and 842 was positioned in a WBCP on the Saigon River in close proximity to the destroyed bunkers (XT 718 217). Remaining poised for action, the U. S. sailors took three VC under fire as they approached within five feet of the boats. As the units broke the WBCP, a grenade was thrown at one of the PBR's, but it failed to detonate. Two of the VC had been killed almost instantly at the point blank range, and the third was probably killed. The PBR's reconned the area by fire before a USA LHFT placed a strike with unknown results.

In another enemy grenade tossing incident, ENS Luong, VNN, the USN advisor, E1 Mocer, and two VNN PBR's were silently watching the Saigon River and countryside from their WBGP 15 miles northwest of Phu Cuong (XT 610 337). A lone hand grenade bounced off one of the VNN PBR's and detonated. The two boats broke their positions and took the suspected enemy locations under fire. Return enemy fire was received, and the area was completely saturated during four firing runs that effectively silenced the enemy. Final assesment of the enemy casualties was unknown.

During the early morning hours of 31 March, CPO Hoai, VNN, the USN advisor QMCS Land, and two VNN PBR's were enroute to Phu Cuong when they were ambushed by one B-40 and heavy automatic weapons fire only four miles from their destination (XT 747 185). The PBR's returned the fire and called in a USA LHFT which expended all its ordnance with unknown results. The area was covered by USA Hand I artillery fire when the LHFT departed the area. One VNN was seriously wounded in the brief confrontation.

### Border Interdiction

For the past few months, the Border Interdiction Campaign has included the operational activity of both the Tran Hung Dao I AO and the Parrier Reef AO under the Operational Task Designator TG 194.4. On 15 March, Tran Hung Dao I became a combined operation with LCDR Giang, VNH, assuming the operational title Commander, Tran Hung Dao I and LCDR J. B. Bishop, USN, assuming the operational title Deputy Commander, Tran Hung Dao I. Commander, Tran Hung Dao I assumed the task designators CTG 212.4(VNH)/CTG 194.8(USN), and the Deputy Commander, Tran Hung Dao I assumed the task designators CTU 212.4.0/CTU 194.8.0. LCDR P. T. Souval, USN, assumed the duties as Senior Advisor to CTG 212.4 along with his other duties as Commander, Border Interdiction Group with the task designator CTG 194.4. Task Group 194.4 will continue operations in the Barrier Reef AO.

During the month, the combined forces continued to maintain the pressure on the enemy in his many attempts to infiltrate troops and supplies into the Republic of Vietnam by way of Cambodia. The water level of the Vinh Te Canal continued to drop and forced suspension of routine FBR operations to the west of N/S grid line VS 970 by 19 March.

During the month, the enemy suffered 33 confirmed killed in attempting to infiltrate the area. The U. S. Navy suffered only two wounded in action during the month in this area of operations.

During the month, CTG 194.4/194.8 had a daily average of 95 boats available and set an average of 43 MBGP's daily in the Tran Hung Dao I area of operations. In the Barrier Reef AO, CTG 194.4 had a daily average of 77 boats available for operations and set a daily average of 58 MBGP's.

On 3 March, PCF 37 of COSDIV 11, with LTJG Scattergood on board, suffered an underwater explosion under the stern of the boat near the canal locks located at VS 606 636 on the Vinh Te Canal. PCF 37 immediately commenced H and I fire on both banks. There was no return fire. PCF 37 then cleared the area to the west, and two more explosions were felt by the crew. PCF 37 suffered only slight damage to the starboard propellor and shaft. Apparently, the enemy had planted booby trapped grenades in the shallow water near the lock.

On 7 March, My Phouc Tay Special Forces Company requested PBR support for CIDG units in heavy contact 12 kilometers south of Ap Bac at XS 170 609. PBR's 773 and 778 of RIVDIV 551 under Patrol Officer LT Smelley scrambled and provided a blocking force along the Tong Doc Loc Canal until 1715H when the boats were released and returned to My Phouc Tay. One hour later, a CIDG unit reported heavy contact, and the PBR's were again scrambled to provide support. On arrival on station, the boats came under B-40 rocket and heavy automatic weapons fire from both banks at XS 168 609. The PBR's immediately returned fire and placed 60mm mortar fire into the area. Black Ponies were requested but on arrival overhead were unable to conduct



Striken due to ground troops moving into the area. LT Smalley received a slight shrapnel wound during this encounter.

On 7 March, during a dufflebag implant mission, two VC from the 502 Bn were captured. They revealed that duffelbag directed artillery has been responsible for several kills in the Barrier Reef AO. They stated that the VC cannot understand how the artillery happens to be fired at them for no apparent reason in the middle of the night.

The using of dufflebag sensors and artillery is believed to be a very important contributing factor in the reported low morale of VC in this area.

Another report by Dufflebag operating personnel states that the combined use of sensors and the Army radar has proven again to be extremely effective. Almost every activation in the Vinh Gia AO has been confirmed by the radar at that location.

Enemy activity has definitely been on the upswing. In the Vinh Gia AO, the VC/NVA mission is to cross the canal while in the Ha Tien AO; more emphasis has been placed on attacking the boats, not only at night but in the late afternoon.

On 17 March, the stern sentry on USS IREDELL COUNTY (LST 839), anchored at WS 40 85 in Kien Phong Province, sighted an object floating in the water near the ship. The sentry fired a short burst at the object. The object exploded with a bright flash. There was no damage to the ship nor injury to personnel.

In the early part of March, 20 Strike Assault Boats (STAB's) joined TG 194.4 as TG 194.4.7.2. The STAB's concept is a relatively new one and has evolved, in a ten month period, from the drawing board to production to in-country delivery. The STAB's unit had some minor growing pains getting organized and trained for operation on the Delta waterways. By 8 March, CTG 194.4 laconically reported that the "STAB's are out of gas." His comment was quite true but was primarily the result of intensive usage of the boats for training and secondarily that the support functions had not yet become totally operative and had not yet developed usage data in order to properly support the boats.

On 16 March, Stabron 20 units, STAB's 709 and 716, in coordination with T-27 and A-15, assisted NILO Cao Lanh in recovering an arms cache in reaction to an agent's report. The boats recovered the cache from underwater in the middle of Phuoc Xuyen village, Kien Phong Province at WS 860 777. The cache consisted of one B-40 rocket and launcher, one Chicom light machine gun, type 56, and one Chicom light machine gun, type 58. The agent reported that an unknown size NVA element had cached the weapons after crossing the canal at that location in the night of 10 March.

On 16 March, at the request of the Dong Tien District Chief, Seawolves 93 and 95 placed an airstrike at WS 481 870 approximately six kilometers northeast of An Long. The Seawolves had four secondary explosions and had one B-40 fired at them. CTE 194.4.5.1 coordinated with the Dong Tien District Chief and requested that a

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Black Pony strike be made in the same area. Black Ponies 103 and 114 were diverted to the area. Following the Seawolf strike, Dong Tien District 99th RF Company moved from their night position to the area of the Seawolf contact. At 2030H, the troops observed 50 VC approximately 1,800 meters north of their position. At 2040H, Black Ponies 103 and 114 were briefed on the contact area and informed that there were no U. S. forces on the ground to direct the airstrike. The Black Ponies, flown by LCDR Hardie and LTJG Baily, agreed to attempt to work with the RF Company through Aspirant Tin who spoke fair English.

At 2050H, communications were established between the Black Ponies and the ground troops. At 2045H, Black Ponies rolled in on the strike zone. This may have been the first time that RF troops directed Black Ponies in a close fire support mission without any U. S. advisor assistance. The troops marked the target area with tracers as the Black Ponies put in the strike. At 2055H, the troops reported that the VC were shooting at the aircraft. At 2110H, the Black Ponies completed the strike.

The troops, who had been receiving light machine gun and automatic weapons fire throughout the engagement suppressed the enemy fire at 2111H. The troops then requested illumination for a sweep of the area. At 2115H, the Black Ponies departed for home base due to a low fuel state.

During the early morning hours of 29 March, VC/NVA units launched well coordinated simultaneous attacks against friendly positions at Chi Lang, Ba Xoai, Kien Luong cement plant, Tri Ton, and outposts within the Seven Mountains. CTG 194.8 immediately responded with Seawolves from HAL 3 Dets 3 and 5 and Black Ponies from VAL-4.

As night turned into day, U. S. Army helo assets were brought to the scene, and continuous strikes were placed throughout the day. All indications are that the enemy was well routed.

As a result of the effective initial enemy strikes, all the land based helo refueling and rearming facilities in the combat area were rendered useless. Both YRBM-20 and YRBM-16 quickly commenced to support the continuous airborne avalanche.

During the periods 290200 - 0430H and 290730-1700H, both YRBM's were called upon to conduct upwards of 150 individual rearming/refueling evolutions on aircraft ranging from armed UH-6 LOH through UH-1B Seawolves to heavily laden AH-1G Cobras.

Easter Sunday was a day of rest for some, but for the officers and men of the YRBM's, it was a tiring day of silent but critical support.

### Search Turn

Raid 75, which was committed to Operation Search Turn on 23 February making it a combined USN/VNN operation named Operation Search Turn/Tran Hung Dao VI, conducted interdiction operations on the Rach Gia - Ha Tien Canal utilizing daylight patrols and night WGP's. In view of the imminent movement of NVA units through the Search Turn AO, C7U 194.3 considered RAID 75 a particularly desirable asset. In addition to operations on the Rach Gia - Ha Tien Canal, RAID 75 also set patrols and WGP's on the Kien Lyinh Quynh Canal. In addition to their primary mission of interdiction, the RAID assisted local Province Troops in coordinating and providing transportation for them across the Kien Lyinh Quynh in a sweep type operation.

Activity in the Search Turn AO rose during the month of March with 26 hostile fire incidents being recorded as compared to February's 17. Search Turn units accounted for enemy losses of 40 kills and 27 probable kills, a rise from the previous month's 16 and 13 respectively. Enemy craft loss totals were down, however, from February's seven destroyed and 12 damaged to one destroyed and one damaged in March. There were, however, four enemy craft captured this month, a rise of three over last month. While

enemy losses rose in March, friendly losses remained at February's level. There were two USN and one friendly killed in February; there were three friendlies killed in March's operations. February also saw three USN and two VNN wounded while March's total rose to six USN and 16 friendlies wounded.

At the end of the month, Search Turn assets included two UH-1B's and 64 water craft which included 37 PBR's, 14 ATC's, four ASPB's, three Boston Whalers, one Monitor, one Zippo, one LSSC, one BWH, and one MSSC.

Toward the end of March, the Gulf of Thailand weather and sea conditions deteriorated to the point where there was an average of less than three hours daily when LST support could be accomplished. Thus on 27 March, the USS HUNTERDON COUNTY (LST 838) was given order to depart the vicinity of Rach Gia and proceed to the vicinity of Long Xuyen on the Bassac River where it arrived on 30 March ready to resume support for CTG 194.3.

The following incident narrative is typical of March's activity in the Search Turn AO.

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During a day patrol (vic WS 005 345) on 6 March, PER's of RIVDIV 573, under Patrol Officer EMC Walker and Boat Captains RD1 Waters and RD1 Thompson, were checking water traffic when they were stopped by a sampan occupied by two men and one woman who said that VC tax collectors upstream had taken their money and raped their woman. Proceeding upstream, the unit encountered a group of 20 people dressed in a mixture of khaki, camouflaged, and black pajamas. The people were armed and indicated that they were RD cadre protecting the populace. The units checked with an outpost two kilometers downstream and determined that a bandit group had been robbing and raping local populace along the Tri Ton Canal on both sides of the Kien Giang Province boundary. The units returned and observed men escaping with M-16 rifles. The remainder were taken aboard. The apparent leader of the group was dressed in a very old, ragged RD uniform. He stated that the group's purpose was to protect fishermen and that their home was an undetermined outpost at the base of Seven Mountains. The people were taken to the Sector NILO for interrogation. In all, there were 25 people detained and seven rifles, two grenades, and six bandoliers of ammunition captured.

On the previous day, a patrol in the same area had captured a VC flag and banner which warned that black pajama clad local

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forces were an enemy of the VC and would be killed. This banner might have been in reference to this group or could have been a rouse to discredit RD cadre or PSDF. Intelligence received on 6 March was that 200 VC had been in the same general area for the previous three nights.

At 0015H on 18 March, PER's of RIVDIV 553 observed 11 VC/NVA approaching their position on the Tri Ton Canal 20 miles northwest of Rach Gia (WS 010 380) from the east. Both craft opened fire when the enemy was 250 meters out and caught them in a withering .50 caliber cross fire. They received A/W, R/F, and rifle grenades in return. Seawolves were requested on Scramble Two, and at 0019H Black Ponies were also requested. The Seawolves were on station and putting in a strike at 0035H, and the Black Ponies put in their strike at 0046H and left the area at 0110H. Two hours later, one VC/NVA was sighted in the contact area and taken under fire. At 0400H, two PBR's were dispatched to the contact area to assist in the sweep and to provide cover. At 0630, a sweep revealed three bodies and two distinct heavy blood trails. There were no friendly casualties while the enemy suffered three killed (BC) and two probably killed. The units were also responsible for capturing one AK-47, five AK-47 magazines, one kilo of documents, ten kilos of rice, and two Chicom grenades.

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The next day, units of RIVDIV 553 were again engaged in action in approximately the same area while establishing a WEGP on the Tri Ton Canal 20 miles northwest of Rach Gia (WS 008 380) when PBR's 8131 and 8132 uncovered 21, 60 pound sacks of rice which were camouflaged and cached 20 feet from the Tri Ton Canal bank. The WEGP was set, but there was no action throughout the night. At 0700H on the 20th, SEAL elements were inserted in the cache area and cleared the PBR's about 3,000 meters to the south. At 0857H, the units observed 19 VC in a spread out line coming from the direction of Seven Mountains. They were observed to be in blue or black uniforms, and six of them were seen to be carrying or pushing a large object. At 0900H, a Shotgun aircraft was requested for visual reconnaissance. At 0909H, Sector clearance to fire was obtained. Sixteen minutes later, the enemy turned parallel to the canal and reached apparent CPA at about 2,500 meters. Fifteen minutes later, the VC were observed evading into cover upon hearing the aircraft. At 0946H, the PBR's opened fire, and at 1025H, Seawolves arrived on station and coordinated a strike with the Shotgun aircraft. One detainee was picked up north of the original contact area and delivered to Kien Son. The man was determined to be a PF from the Tri Ton District who had wandered one kilometer south of the Province border while fishing. At 1410H, a report was received from the 21st ARVN Division that one company of VC was

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in the contact area. At approximately 1430H, the 21st ARVN inserted an Air Cavalry package to sweep the area. There were negative results. Enemy casualties in this action included five VC killed and 1,260 pounds of rice captured.

In the early evening of 19 March, CTU 194.3.3 Seawolves 86 and 81, piloted by LCDR Thomas and LTJG McNaull respectively, were on a Scramble Three for 90 VC observed by Shotgun 38 in Kien Giang Province 12 miles northwest of Rach Gia (VS 970 200). With clearance from CTG 194.3 and the Kien Giang PSA, the aircraft placed rocket and machine gun fire into the area. The result of this action was six VC killed (BC) and nine VC wounded with no friendly casualties suffered.

In reaction to intelligence gained from MI 525 that a VC medical station was located along the Rach Thong Lua Canal, SEAL Team One, Det GOLF, DELTA Platoon, BRAVO Squad, under LT Hetzer, one LDNN, one KCS, and one interpreter were inserted by sampan on 21 March northeast of Rach Gia (WS 145 065). They proceeded approximately 75 meters up the canal when they observed four men carrying weapons 25 meters in front of their position on the north bank. The sampan was pulled into the tree line, and the LDNN jumped from the craft to the tree line. There was immediate movement from the target area which was taken under A/W fire. The

LDNN was wounded and was extracted by MSSC for return to Rach  
Gia airstrip for dustoff where he was pronounced dead on arrival  
by a naval doctor.

### Riverine Strike Group

During March, all RAC formerly assigned to CTG 194.7 (Riverine Strike Group) remained out-chopped to other operational commanders with the exception of those craft undergoing overhaul or alteration.

During the month, USS SPHINX (ARL-24) completed installing two 3.5 inch bazookas on each of eight ASPB's. Current plans are to install bazookas on fourteen more boats.

The bazooka installation is expected to increase the effective firepower on each boat. As of this writing, no report has been received describing the effectiveness of the new 3.5 inch bazooka installation in a combat situation.

### Breezy Cove

The level of enemy activity in the Breezy Cove AO decreased during the month of March. There is nothing concrete on which to base any reason for this reduction of activity. Events occurring in Cambodia may have been a contributing factor.

Enemy kills dropped to the lowest level in the past four months with only 14 kills being reported during the month of March. All the kills reported were attributed directly to U. S. Navy units. Eight U. S. Navy personnel were wounded during the month's action. The majority of those wounded were not serious in nature and were returned to duty without further complications.

The total number of boats assigned to the Breezy Cove operation during the month averaged 21 on a daily basis. However, there were several casualties to the boats with the total number of boats available for use dropping to a low of only ten boats on 17 March. The number of WBP's set on a daily basis fluctuated widely due to the wide variety of casualties. On 19 March, only ten boats were available due to all PBR's assisting in Gulf of Thailand patrols, and no WBP's were set. The daily average of WBP's was, however, six per day.

Significant actions occurring during the month of March are described in the following paragraphs.

On 3 March, PBR's 119 and 138 of RIVDIV 572 under Patrol Officer QIC Moore were in WBGP on the north bank of the Song Ong Doc at VQ 852 999. At 2024H, the boats detected movement near their position. A minute later, three VC jumped in front of PBR 138 and took the boat under fire with small arms. The forward gunner of PBR 138 immediately opened fire killing all three of the enemy. The boats broke WBGP and made a firing run and received moderate automatic weapons return fire. The boats broke WBGP and made a firing run and received moderate automatic weapons return fire. The boats made a second firing run and received no return fire. Friendly casualties totaled four USN wounded. All wounds were slight. Enemy casualties were three VC killed (BC).

On 21 March, Black Ponies, operating in the vicinity of the Breezy Cove AO, placed strikes in a wooded area at WR 179 389 to WR 188 384 where 150 VC had been reported along a canal bank. Enemy casualties reported from this strike were: 25 VC killed (BC), 30 VC wounded, two structures destroyed, one sampan destroyed, and six fires started. (Note: Kills from this operation are not included in the statistical summary).

On 23 March, Seawolf 66, piloted by LCDR Beck, was on routine patrol along the Song Ong Doc when at 1734H, an explosion was heard in the engine compartment. LCDR Beck experienced a power failure and immediately put the helicopter into auto rotation. The Seawolf landed at WR 080 105 without injury to the crew or further damage to the helicopter. The accompanying helicopter, Seawolf 63, piloted by LTJG Wolfe, remained overhead and requested Black Pony assistance

for security. Two ASFB's one ATC, and one Monitor were scrambled from Old Cong Ong Doc to assist. An MSSC with SEAL's embarked departed the ATSB at 1840H to provide additional ground security. Dustoff 66, on a routine mission, diverted to the area and extracted the crew of Seawolf 66 at 1800H. All units were standing by providing security and support when, at 1850H, a Chinook helicopter arrived and lifted the downed aircraft out safely at 1900H. All units then resumed their normal patrols. The entire operation, from the time of the accident to the successful completion of the rescue mission, was only one hour and 24 minutes.

On 31 March, FBR's 145 and 136 of RIVDIV 572 were in night WBGF at VQ 860 999. At 2040H, the boats sighted a man on the beach and heard heavy movement in the area. The boats took the area under fire and broke WBGF receiving small arms fire from an estimated five firing positions. As the lead boat broke WBGF, a satchel charge exploded close aboard the port bow of the boat knocking the bow gunner unconscious. The patrol cleared the area to the west. Seawolves were requested and placed a strike in the ambush area at 2015H. Friendly casualties were evacuated by Dustoff helicopter. There were two USN wounded, both with possible skull fractures. Enemy casualties were one VC killed.

### MARKET TIME RAIDER CAMPAIGN

Market Time Raiders continued to conduct SEA LORDS missions along the rivers and canals of the III and IV Corps Tactical Zones during March. There were 69 missions conducted which resulted in 41 hostile fire incidents, 25 friendly initiated, seven enemy initiated, and nine unilateral. Enemy losses for the month were 25 craft and 72 structures destroyed, two craft and 62 structures heavily damaged. There were 21 enemy killed, one wounded, and nine captured during the SEA LORDS missions.

There were no U. S. personnel or material casualties during the month, although there were five friendly wounded and one killed during the operations.

The following craft and personnel participated in SEA LORD missions during March: USN - PCF's, WPB's, River Assault Craft, SEAL Team Detachment Golf, CHARLIE Platoon, OV-10's; VN: PCF's, LSIL's, RF/PF's, LDNN's, Coastal Group 36 junks and personnel, and Kit Carson Scouts.

The PT CAUTION (USCG WPB), LTJG Andrews commanding, conducted a SEA LORDS mission on the morning of 4 March about 23 miles east of Ben Tre (XR 828 123). The targets were



VC supply routes and structures, with many well-used trails surrounding the area. The WPB destroyed six bunkers, two structures and one sampan, and damaged six bunkers and one structure. Enemy casualties were unknown.

On the afternoon of 8 March, the USCG WPB's PT MARONE and PT PARTRIDGE entered a canal off the Co Chien River about 20 miles southeast of Tra Vinh (XR 730 719) taking targets of opportunity under fire. During the transit of the canal both units played Psyops tapes to people along the canal banks. The WPB's destroyed four bunkers, two structures, and five sampans and damaged two structures, two sampans, and four bunkers. They also ignited two large fires. There was one VC wounded and no friendly casualties.

The PT CAUTION, PT PARTRIDGE, and PT WELCOME conducted a SEA LORDS mission on the afternoon of 10 March about 15 miles southeast of Tra Vinh (XR 733 874). The WPB's entered a canal and took targets along both banks under destructive fire. Several VC were sighted during the canal transit and taken under fire. There were several secondary fires and explosions which indicated enemy storage areas. An evaluation of the area indicated heavy enemy activity. Upon exiting the canal, bunker complexes were taken under M-79 fire and then OV-10's from VAL-4 placed

strikes in the area. There were no friendly casualties and four VC were killed and one VC wounded. The WPB's destroyed 21 structures and one sampan and heavily damaged 30 structures and several bunkers.

On the night of 10 March, SEAL Team, Detachment GOLF, CHARLIE Platoon attempted to establish a waterborne guard post in the vicinity of a known VC crossing point about 14 miles east of Soc Trang (XR 340 545). The SEAL's, while proceeding north up the Bassac River, encountered a sampan moving toward their skimmer. The sampan was illuminated and hailed; however, two male occupants attempted to swim ashore and were killed and their sampan destroyed. The mission was then aborted due to being compromised.

The USCG WPB's PT PARTRIDGE and PT CAUTION and a Coastal Group 35 skimmer conducted a SEA LORDS mission on the afternoon of 17 March about 22 miles southeast of Tra Vinh (XR 698 640). As the units entered a canal, two VC were sighted and taken under fire. Proceeding on, 15 VC were sighted, who appeared to be setting up an ambush, and were taken under fire. Small arms fire was received and OV-10's were called in, placed strikes in the area, and suppressed the fire. All units then exited the canal without further incident. Two sampans and one bunker

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were destroyed, and three bunkers and one structure were damaged. There were no friendly casualties, and enemy casualties were nine VC probably killed.

SEAL Team ONE, Detachments DELTA and GOLF, and LDNN's, operating on SEAL intelligence, were inserted at 2330H, 17 March, by LSSC about 20 miles southwest of Tra Vinh (XR 276 668) to conduct a night reconnaissance patrol. The SEAL's patrolled to the targeted hootch and established a perimeter. The structure was entered and small arms fire was received, wounding one LDNN who died en route to the Third Surgical Hospital, Binh Thuy. Small arms fire was received and suppressed from the south bank of the stream and light automatic weapon cross fire was received from three positions. The SEAL's withdrew by sampan southwest down the canal and were extracted by LSSC. There were seven VC killed and one VC detained. Three of the VC killed were identified as a deputy secretary at Long Phu, a security section chief at Tan Thanh village, and an area chief at Koko hamlet. One LDNN was slightly wounded and returned to duty.

In a SEA LORDS mission on the afternoon of 19 March, the PT CYPRESS and PCF 21 inserted 140 Regional Force/Popular Force (RF/PF) troops at two locations about 30 miles southwest of Tra Vinh (XR 291 416). The troops then swept toward each

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other while the naval units established a blocking force and stood by for support. The troops made contact with the enemy and called for 81mm support. Helicopter gunships were called in and placed strikes in the area. The area swept by the troops contained numerous bunkers, mines, and several rice caches. The troops were extracted at 1800 without further incident. There were two VC killed and two Popular Force men killed. There were four sampans, ten bunkers, and two mines destroyed and an undetermined number of bunkers damaged during the operation.

SEAL Team ONE, Detachment GOLF was inserted by LSSC about 20 miles southwest of Tra Vinh (XR 271 646) on the morning of 20 March. They commenced patrolling north toward their objective, a VC facility, when eight armed VC were sighted and were taken under fire. Immediately automatic weapons fire was received from four locations. VAL-4, OV-10's were called in and placed several strikes in the area. The SEAL's destroyed one bunker and one structure and killed four VC. There were probably more enemy killed by the air strikes. There were no friendly casualties.

In a SEA LORDS mission on 24 March, the PT WELCOME (USCG WPB), LTJG Wyche commanding, fired a gunfire support

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mission on numerous new structures about seven miles northwest of Tra Vinh (XS 405 069). Seven VC were spotted attempting to evade into the treeline and were taken under fire. The WPB destroyed five structures and damaged two structures. There were no friendly casualties and four VC were probably killed.

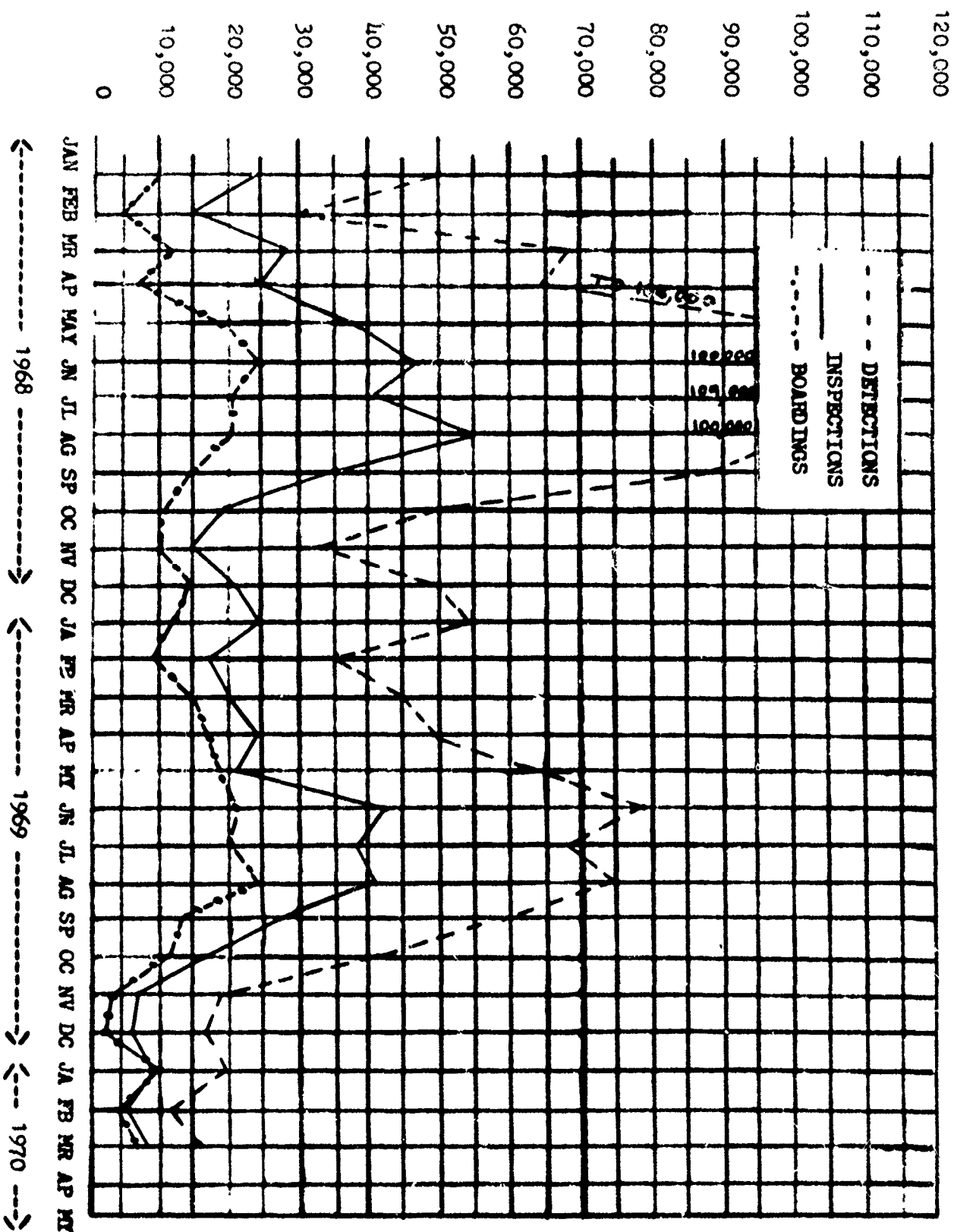
PCF's 21 and 103 picked up 36 Kit Carson Scouts (KCS) at 1800H on 25 March and inserted them along a canal about 12 miles east of Tra Vinh (XR 770 890). The KCS proceeded to sweep the area where a VC company was suspected to be located. The Swift boats conducted H and I fire during the mission with unknown results. The KCS made contact with the enemy and OV-10's were called in and placed strikes in the area and drew light fire on three occasions. Extraction was made without further incident. There were no friendly casualties, and two VC were killed and three VC were captured. GDA by the Swift boats and OV-10's was unknown.

The PT BANKS (USCG WPB), LT Lashley commanding, and PCF 48 inserted 80 Regional Force troops about 20 kilometers east of Tra Vinh (XS 696 047) on 31 March, after prep fire of the beach. The area was the scene of recent enemy activity and contained many booby traps, bunkers, and VC sympathizers. The troops made contact with the enemy during their sweep. The

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PT BANKS fired H and I throughout the day in support of the operation. There were four VC killed and no friendly casualties. One large structure and several booby traps were destroyed, and one sampan motor and numerous documents were captured. Further GDA was unknown.

# DETECTIONS, INSPECTIONS, BOARDINGS BY MARKET TIME UNITS



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NAVAL STATISTICAL SUMMARY (AS OF 1 APRIL 70)

	TRAN HUNG DAO	GIANT SLINGSHOT	BARRIER REEF	BREZZY COVE	S. ARCH TURN	R. ADY DECK
<u>ENEMY KIA</u>						
BY USN	271 (7)	1096 (23)	92 (7)	128 (14)	242 (17)	340 (6)
BY VNN	69 (10)	162 (5)	31 (0)	49 (0)	0 (0)	85 (0)
BY OTHER	295 (7)	1057 (9)	111 (2)	168 (0)	51 (8)	246 (0)
<u>ENEMY CIA</u>						
BY USN	12 (1)	25 (1)	18 (0)	44 (0)	9 (3)	14 (0)
BY VNN	2 (1)	9 (0)	1 (0)	8 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
BY OTHER	20 (2)	207 (0)	34 (0)	26 (4)	31 (1)	122 (10)
<u>FRIENDLY KIA</u>						
USN	12 (0)	38 (2)	6 (0)	1 (0)	16 (0)	6 (0)
VNN	9 (0)	17 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
OTHER	0 (0)	129 (2)	17 (0)	2 (0)	21 (2)	20 (0)
<u>FRIENDLY KIA</u>						
USN	123 (0)	508 (10)	50 (2)	83 (8)	72 (4)	30 (0)
VNN	79 (1)	156 (4)	11 (0)	10 (0)	6 (0)	17 (0)
OTHER	142 (0)	663 (10)	89 (9)	9 (2)	110 (17)	84 (0)

( ) - Monthly totals



NAVAL STATISTICAL SUMMARY (AS OF 1 APRIL 70)

	TRAN HUNG DAO	GIANT SLINGSHOT	BARRIER REF	BREZY COV	SARCH TURN	READY DECK
<u>ENEMY KIA</u>						
BY USN	271 (7)	1096 (23)	92 (7)	128 (14)	242 (17)	340 (6)
BY VNN	69 (10)	162 (5)	31 (0)	49 (0)	0 (0)	85 (0)
BY OTHER	295 (7)	1057 (9)	111 (2)	168 (0)	51 (8)	246 (0)
<u>ENEMY CIA</u>						
BY USN	12 (1)	25 (1)	18 (0)	44 (0)	9 (3)	14 (0)
BY VNN	2 (1)	9 (0)	1 (0)	8 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
BY OTHER	20 (2)	207 (0)	34 (0)	26 (4)	31 (1)	122 (10)
<u>FRIENDLY KIA</u>						
USN	12 (0)	38 (2)	6 (0)	1 (0)	16 (0)	6 (0)
VNN	9 (0)	17 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)	0 (0)
OTHER	0 (0)	129 (2)	17 (0)	2 (0)	21 (2)	20 (0)
<u>FRIENDLY MIA</u>						
USN	123 (0)	508 (10)	50 (2)	83 (8)	72 (4)	30 (0)
VNN	79 (1)	156 (4)	11 (0)	10 (0)	6 (0)	17 (0)
OTHER	142 (0)	663 (10)	89 (9)	9 (2)	110 (17)	84 (0)

( ) - Monthly totals

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NAVAL STATISTICAL SUMMARY (AS OF 1 APRIL 70)

	TRAN HUNG DAO	GIANT SLINGSHOT	BARRIER REEF	BREEZY COVE	SEARCH TURN	READY DECK
START OF OPERATION	21 NOV 68	6 DEC 68	2 JAN 69	28 SEP 69	1 NOV 68	1 JUN 69
FRIFF	247 (22)	509 (33)	73 (13)	70 (8)	175 (20)	51 (3)
SHIFF	198 (17)	716 (21)	56 (4)	52 (5)	90 (8)	62 (5)
UNILATERAL FIRINGS	426 (25)	1387 (40)	225 (27)	166 (33)	310 (30)	217 (11)
WININGS	23 (1)	16 (2)	6 (0)	7 (0)	4 (0)	1 (0)
Air CUTION CACHES & CACHE WT. (TONS)	7 (0) 11.5 (0)	275 (6) 142.9 (0)	1 (0) .4 (0)	0 (0) 0 (0)	14 (0) 12 (0)	22 (3) 4.3 (.3)
OTHER CACHES & CACHE WT. (TONS)	1 (0) 0 (0)	24 (0) 384.9 (0)	0 (0) 0 (0)	1 (0) 1.1 (0)	1 (0) 1 (0)	2 (0) .5 (0)
REPORTS OF ENEMY PLANS TO ATTACK PATROL CRAFT	145 (0)	198 (0)	27 (1)	8 (1)	*	*
SAMPANS DESTROYED	252 (1)	327 (5)	160 (4)	266 (53)	309 (1)	144 (1)

( ) - Monthly totals

\* - Statistics not available.

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Pages 45 and 46 not  
available and are not significant  
per the originator

28 Feb 85

### COASTAL SURVEILLANCE FORCE SUMMARY

During March, Market Time and Stable Door forces continued routine operations with generally good weather prevailing throughout the Republic of Vietnam. There were 58,978 craft detected along the coasts and in the harbors during the month with 15,944 inspections and 12,231 boardings carried out resulting in the detention of 107 craft and 575 persons. There were 99 Viet Cong suspects detained during the month. The reasons for detentions were lack of or faulty identification, possession of contraband, incorrect or faulty manifests, violation of restricted zones, or other suspicious activity. In the Game Warden area of operations in the lower Bassac, Ham Luong, and Cua Tien Rivers, Market Time units detected 4,174 craft, inspected 1,653, and boarded another 1,820. There were two craft and seven persons detained.

Task Force 115 units continued to provide waterborne guardposts, troop lifts, blocking patrols, and naval gunfire in support of friendly ground operations along the coast and in the rivers and canals. There were no known large scale infiltration of men or supplies attempted during March. There were no U. S. casualties reported during the month although there were two friendlies killed and seven friendlies wounded. Enemy losses to the naval gunfire of Market Time units came to 108 confirmed killed, 109 probably killed, 24 wounded, and 23 captured.

### Operation Market Time

The tempo of naval gunfire, SEALORDS, Sea Float, and Sea Tiger missions increased from the 499 conducted in February to 598 conducted

during March. Gun damage assessment (GDA) was the highest reported to date with 45 per cent of the missions reporting GDA. The number of confirmed enemy kills, 108, was also the highest killed in any one month by Market Time forces. The results of these missions were: 217 Viet Cong killed (108 body count, 109 probable), 24 Viet Cong wounded, 23 Viet Cong captured, 175 junks/sampans destroyed, 49 junks/sampans damaged, 628 structures/bunkers destroyed, and 287 structures/bunkers damaged.

There were 12 incidents of evading craft and personnel reported during the month. They were taken under fire in all cases with unknown results.

Surveillance operations resulted in the detection of 22,660 craft, and of these, 9,635 were inspected and 7,276 were boarded. There were 356 steel hulled vessels detected in Market Time areas during March, and 294 of these were inspected, and six were boarded. All were determined to be non-suspicious.

SEAL units attached to Task Force 115 conducted almost daily operations. The operations were conducted in the IV Corps Tactical Zone in support of the Market Time Raiders/SEA LORDS operations.

A Market Time aircraft located an SL-4 class trawler at 1223H, 11 March, at position 07°- 15' N, 105°- 25' E. The contact was designated 12F1. The USCGC MELLON (WHEC 717) closed the contact and commenced overt surveillance. At 0705H on 13 March, the MELLON was relieved by the SEVENTH Fleet ship USS BENNER (DD 807) with the

trawler at position 09°- 105' N, 110°- 26' E.

Commander Task Force 115 was advised at 1648H on 15 March that the SS COLUMBIA EAGLE was hijacked by two armed men and was proceeding to the central coast of Cambodia with an ETA of 1600H, 15 March. The USCGC MELLON (WMEC 717) was dispatched, at best speed, to the scene to provide assistance as necessary. The USCGC MELLON was the first U. S. unit on the scene outside of Cambodian territorial waters arriving at 1800H on 15 March. The COLUMBIA EAGLE was at that time anchored in the vicinity of 10°-22' N, 103°-15' E. Commander Task Force 115 chipped the USCGC MELLON to Commander U. S. Naval Forces, Philippines at 2013H, 15 March.

The PT YOUNG (USCG WPB) and PT KENNEDY (USCG WPB) were decommissioned and transferred to the Vietnamese Navy on 16 March. Coast Guard Division TWELVE was decommissioned during the same ceremonies.

In a ceremony at Vung Tau on 27 March, the USCG WPB PT PARTRIDGE was decommissioned and transferred to the Vietnamese Navy.

#### First Coastal Zone

Weather conditions improved in the First Coastal Zone as the northeast monsoon season came to an end. The number of detections by U. S. forces decreased as the responsibility for patrol of areas 1 and 2 were turned over to the Vietnamese Navy on 28 February along with 11 PCF's and the Coastal Surveillance Center at Danang. There

were 988 detections during the month, and of these, 317 were inspected, and 14 were boarded.

There were approximately 40 naval gunfire support and Sea Tiger missions conducted, a decrease from the 59 reported in February. These were mostly Sea Tiger operations utilizing PBR's of Commander River Division 543.

On the afternoon of 3 March, the USCGC DALLAS (WMEC 716), in support of the U. S. 11th Light Infantry Brigade, received a call for a naval gunfire support mission. The three targets, consisting of bunkers and structures, were located about 10 miles southeast of Quang Ngai (BS 75 61). The five inch gun of the cutter destroyed eight bunkers, 12 structures, and two sampans and heavily damaged nine bunkers and 14 structures. There were three secondary explosions and two secondary fires.

Underwater Demolition Team (UDT) ELEVEN, Det HOTEL, with the Officer in Charge, LTJG S. McCrary, and one platoon of Regional Force/Popular Force (RF/PF) troops conducted a 200 by 100 meters sweep of an area about four kilometers south of Hoi An (BT 146 530) on the morning of 7 March. Two PBR's inserted the troops and stood by for support. There was no contact made with the enemy during the sweep while ten bunkers and two wood structures were destroyed. The bunkers in this area were well built with cement bricks. There were no friendly casualties.

The USCGC DALLAS inflicted heavy damage on enemy positions about eight miles southeast of Quang Ngai (BS 75 64) on the afternoon of 10 March. The gunfire support mission was called for by the U. S. Army, 11th Light Infantry Brigade. The cutter destroyed five heavily fortified structures and damaged 15 others. There was one large secondary explosion and one secondary fire.

In a Sea Tiger mission on 14 March, PBR's of River Division 543 inserted UDT 11, Det H, and an eight man security force from the Second Combined Action Group about three kilometers south of Hoi An (BT 136 537). The Patrol Officer BMC Stokes, Boat Captains GMG1 Maxfield of PBR 47, and RD1 Krank of PBR 114 then stood by for support. Following the bunker destruction mission, 30 - 40 VC were sighted as the troops were being extracted. Helicopter gunships were called in and took the area under fire with unknown results. The troops were then extracted without further incident. There were five bunkers destroyed and two booby trapped rounds recovered and turned over to the EOD team for disposition. There were no friendly casualties.

Patrol Officer BMC Turnbull with PBR's 47 and 67 conducted a MBGP on the night of 15 - 16 March in the Sea Tiger AO about three kilometers south of Hoi An (BT 137 535). About 0600H, three VC were sighted walking toward the boats and were taken under fire at a distance of 25 feet. The PBR's then cleared the area. There were three VC killed and no friendly casualties.

PBR 67, under Boat Captain BM1 Mansfield, and PBR 114, under Boat Captain RD1 Krank, with Patrol Officer BMC Stokes established



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a WBGp about 14 kilometers west of Hoi An (BT 031 556) on the night of 16 March. Movement was heard in the elephant grass near the boats, and two fragmentation grenades were thrown on the bank as the boats withdrew. The PBR's established a second WBGp and after 30 minutes, three VC were sighted in the tall grass 20 feet from the boats and were taken under fire. The boats then cleared the area leaving three VC killed.

In a Sea Tiger mission on the night of 19 March, PBR's 47, 114, and 67 established a WBGp on the Vinh Dien River about six kilometers northwest of Hoi An (BT 054 636). Two VC were sighted on the west bank walking south, but the boats lost sight of them almost immediately. At 2030H, a sampan moved into the area with two persons on board and appeared to be looking for a signal as they moved north and south along the bank. One VC was then sighted on the west bank and a light sighted opposite the sampan on the east bank. Both banks were taken under fire, and as the PBR's approached the sampan to investigate, they received AK-47 fire which they suppressed. Nothing was found on the sampan, and it was destroyed. Two more VC were sighted on the west bank and taken under fire as the PBR's cleared the area and called in artillery fire. There were three VC probably killed and possibly several more killed in the mission.

On the night of 22 March, PBR's 67 and 95 were in a WBGp on the Ky Lam River about 10 kilometers west of Hoi An (BT 035 567) when two sampans with an unknown number of occupants were sighted crossing from north to south. The sampans were not taken under fire due to the

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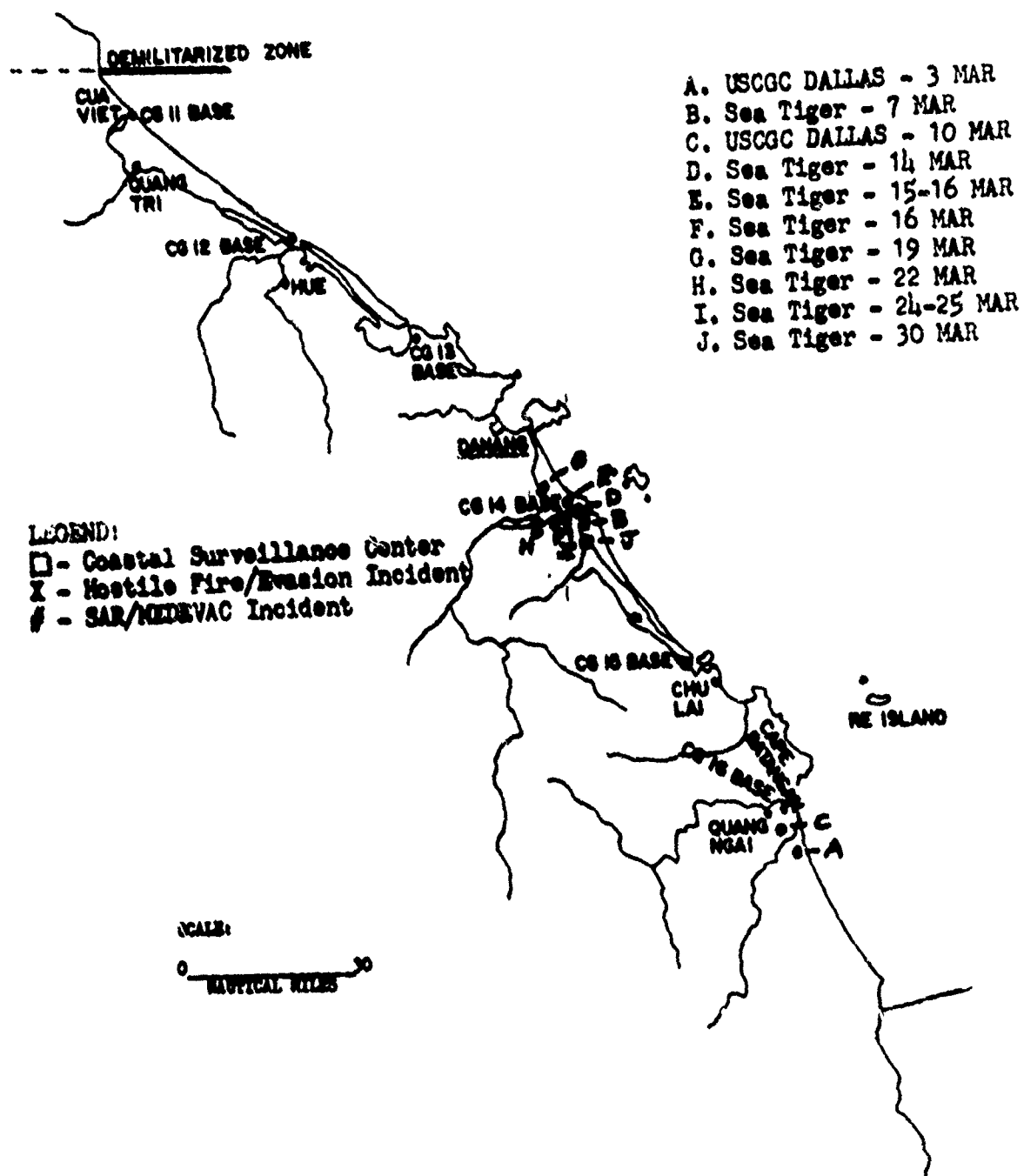
range; however, shortly afterwards, four VC were sighted on the bank and then taken under fire. Automatic weapons fire was received from three positions on the bank and suppressed as the boats cleared the area and called in artillery. There were four enemy probably killed in the Sea Tiger mission.

PBR 67, under Boat Captain BM1 Mansfield, and PBR 95, under Boat Captain BM1 Foster, and Patrol Officer RDC Armstrong established a WGP on the night of 24-25 March about three kilometers southwest of Hoi An (BT 031 558). A sampan with three VC was spotted crossing the river to the south and taken under fire. The PBR's got underway and spotted a second sampan with two VC and took it under fire with M-60 machine guns. Helo gunships were called in and took three additional sampans under fire. The PBR's and gunships received return enemy fire from the south bank during the entire action. A second flight of gunships arrived on the scene and placed strikes in the area but observed no further movement. At first light, the PBR's returned to the scene and destroyed the sampans hit by the gunships. There were no friendly casualties while the PBR's killed five VC, and the helo gunships killed three more VC. There were also five sampans destroyed.

On the afternoon of 30 March, UDT 11, Det H, and three companies of RE/PF troops conducted a reconnaissance and bunker destruction mission in the Sea Tiger AO about seven miles south of Hoi An (BT 099 459). There was no enemy contact, and in the two hour operation, 22 bunkers were destroyed.

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OPERATIONS IN THE FIRST COASTAL ZONE



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### Second Coastal Zone

Weather conditions improved in the Second Coastal Zone as the number of detections of craft almost doubled from the February total of 5,782. There were 10,148 watercraft detected, and of these, 5,137 were inspected and another 2,682 were boarded resulting in the detention of nine craft and 62 persons for lack of or faulty identification, restricted zone violations, and suspected draft dodgers. In addition, one sampan attempted to evade and was destroyed.

The number of naval gunfire support missions decreased from the February total of 39 to 20 in March. There continued to be a minimum of gun damage assessment reported by Second Coastal Zone units.

On the evening of 5 March, on Hon Chua Island (CR 175 570), a Popular Forces man threw a grenade into a group of Vietnamese civilians, possibly as revenge for gambling losses. There were 11 persons hit by the grenade fragments; five died on the island; one died in transit in VNN PCF 3854; and the five wounded were taken to the Holy Family Hospital, Qui Nhon, for treatment.

Early on the morning of 11 March, PCF 61, while on normal Market Time patrol sighted a sampan without lights about 150 yards from the beach and about 14 miles northeast of Phan Rang (CN 03 93). The sampan then headed alongside a second sampan, and the "Swift" boat took them under fire killing two of the enemy and damaging two sampans. In addition, several secondary fires were ignited.

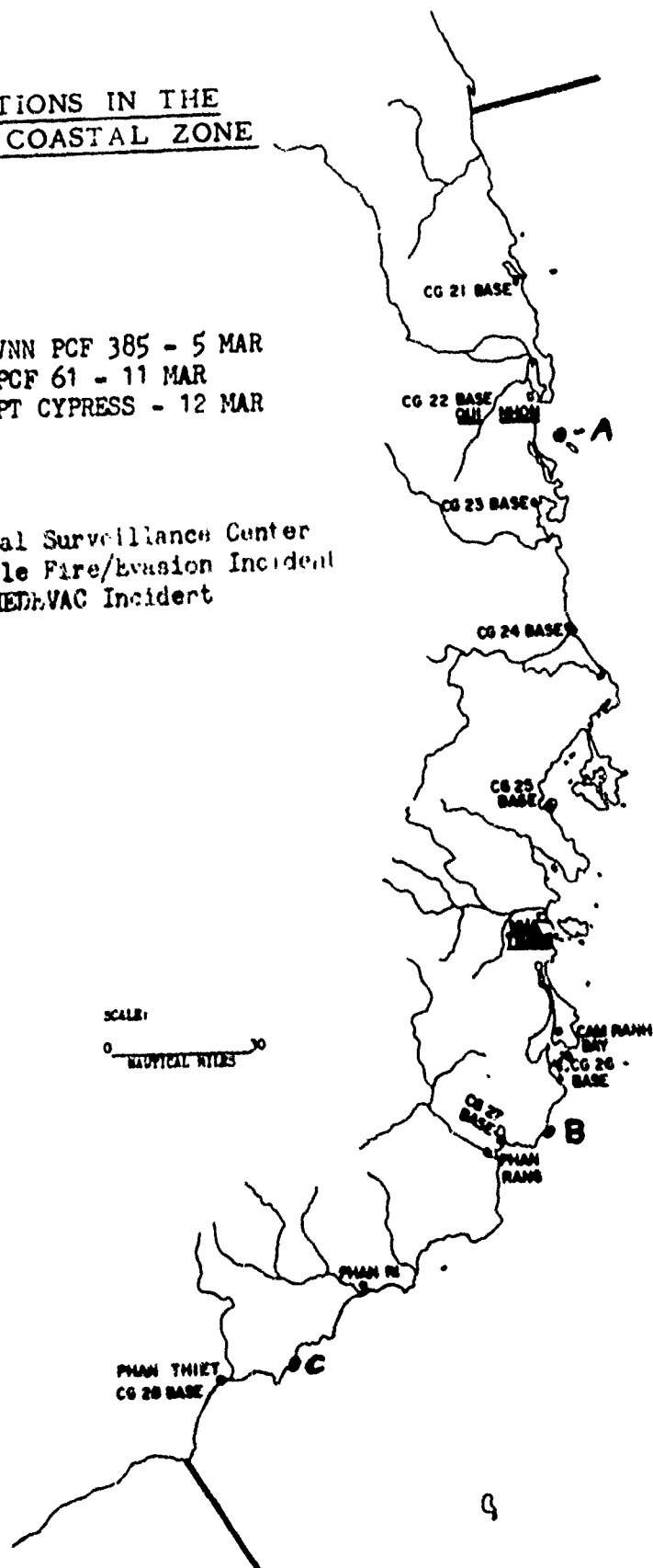
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OPERATIONS IN THE  
SECOND COASTAL ZONE

- A. VNN PCF 385 - 5 MAR  
B. PCF 61 - 11 MAR  
C. PT CYPRESS - 12 MAR

LEGEND:

- - Coastal Surveillance Center  
X - Hostile Fire/Evasion Incident  
/ - SAR/MED EVAC Incident



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The PT CYPRESS (USCG WPB), while patrolling in area 5E, was called on for a gunfire support mission on the evening of 12 March about 19 miles northeast of Ohan Thiet (BN 128 199). The WPB closed the beach and fired .50 caliber machine guns at three VC attempting to evade over the sand ridge. Artillery fire was called in from Fire Support Base Sandy which saturated the area with 175mm rounds. The WPB then cleared the area with three VC probably killed.

### Third Coastal Zone

Indigenous coastal traffic remained at about the same level as February with 6,021 detections of craft reported. Surveillance results improved as over 82 per cent of the craft were either inspected or boarded. There were 2,329 inspections and 2,659 boardings carried out during March and resulted in the detention of three sampans and 98 persons. The detentions were for lack of or faulty identification papers, incorrect or faulty manifests, possession of contraband, and curfew or restricted zone violations. The "Swift" boats continued their patrols in the Game Warden area of operations. During March, the lower Bassac River was patrolled continuously, and the Cua Tien River was patrolled from 1-25 March, and the Ham Luong River was patrolled from 26 - 31 March. There were 4,124 detection of craft during the month, 1,653 inspections, and 1,820 boardings carried out. There were only two craft and seven persons detained in the Game Warden AO and no reported incidents of evading craft.

Third Coastal Zone Market Time units conducted over 125 naval gunfire support missions during March in response to requests for

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urgent gunfire support, H and I, targets of opportunity, or in pre-planned river and canal incursions.

On the morning of 1 March, the PT WELCOME (USCG WPB), LTJG Wyche commanding, while on normal Market Time Patrol in area 6H, observed a sampan with two Vietnamese females overturned about 15 miles southeast of Tra Vinh (XR 643 566). The sampan, which was heavily loaded with rice, was refloated and pumped out, and about 90 per cent of the cargo and the long shaft motor were recovered. When the motor failed to start, the sampan was towed to the hamlet where the Vietnamese lived. The rice cargo was properly manifested.

The PT PARTRIDGE (USCG WPB) fired a sector requested gunfire support mission on the afternoon of 1 March in an area about ten miles east of Soc Trang (XR 20 80). The WPB was on normal Market Time patrol in area 7C at the time the request was received. The 81mm mortars of the WPB destroyed three sampans and one structure and damaged one sampan and burned two large piles of rice.

On the morning of 2 March, the PT PARTRIDGE detected two Chinese Nationalist trawlers, YEONG SHYANG No. 3 and YEONG SHYANG No. 5 about 30 miles southeast of Phu Vinh (XR 76 55). The vessels were wooden hulled, 80 tons, and 30 meters in length. The trawlers were searched initially by the WPB; however, a thorough search was not possible because of hard ice and fish in the holds. The VNN WPB 707 arrived and took custody of the trawlers at 1345H and escorted them to Cat Lo for a complete search and turnover of the trawlers and personnel to customs officials.

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Kit Carson Scouts (KCS) in contact with the enemy about five miles east of Tra Vinh (XR 503 067) requested gunfire support from the PT CAUTION on the evening of 5 March. The KCS were receiving fire from an estimated 60 VC. After the KCS were extracted, the WPB directed .50 caliber fire into the area probably killing four VC and destroying one structure. The KCS killed two VC and captured two others. There were no friendly casualties.

The PT BANKS (USCG WFB) launched her skimmer on the afternoon of 29 March to conduct a daylight visual reconnaissance of an area about 12 miles north of Tra Vinh (XS 693 038). The skimmer entered a canal and received automatic weapons and small arms fire from four concealed ambush locations on both banks of the canal. The WFB suppressed the fire with .50 caliber, and then fired .81mm mortars on both banks. A helo gunship in the area was called in and placed a strike in the area. It was estimated that at least two of the enemy were wounded. The WFB destroyed three sampans and two structures and heavily damaged three structures. There were no friendly casualties.

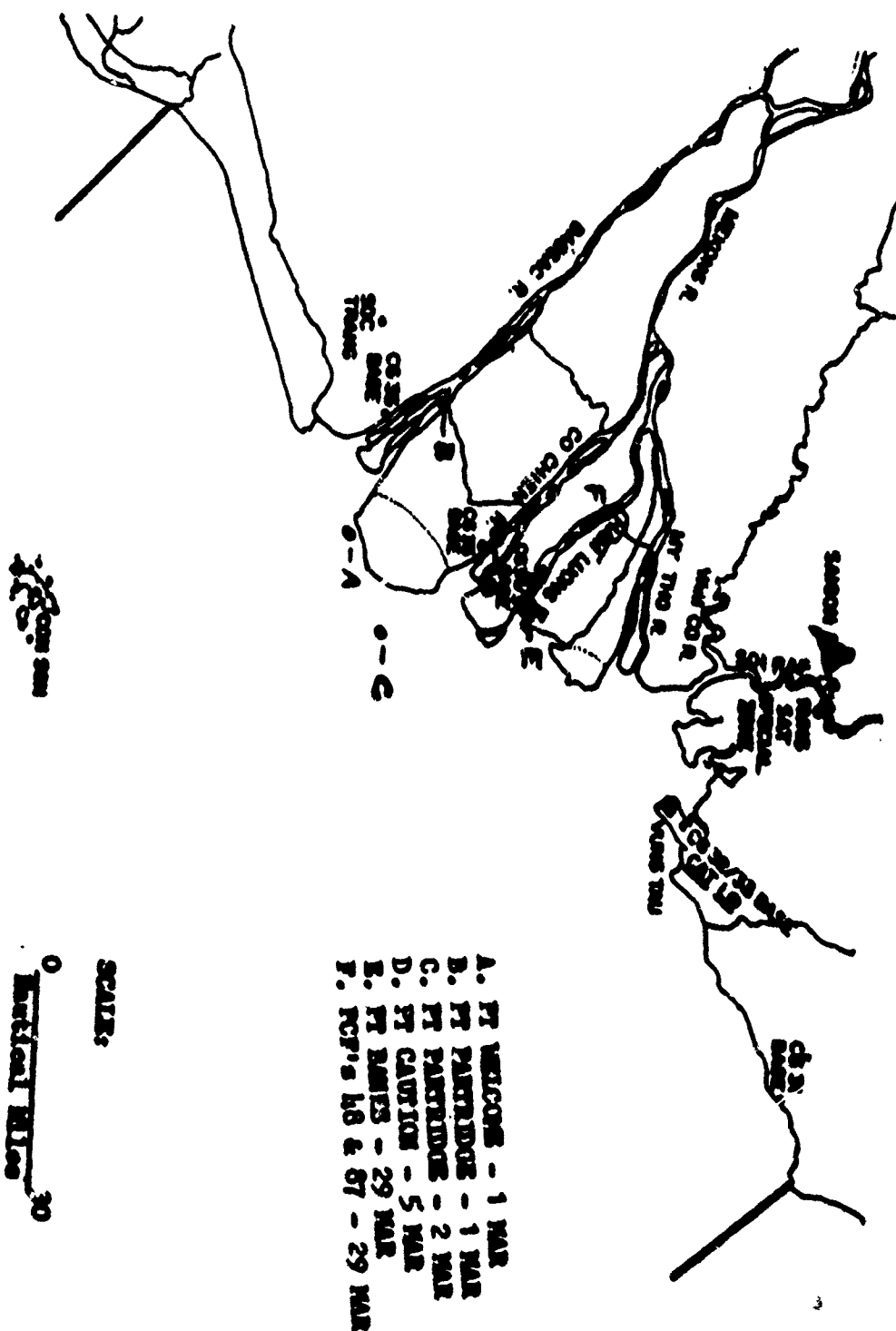
PCF's 48 and 87 conducted a corral operation on 29 March about six miles west of Ben Tre (XS 500 250). The operation was designed to disrupt enemy infiltration and supplies that were reported in the area. There were approximately 100 junks and sampans boarded during the operation; however, nothing suspicious was observed and no one was detained.

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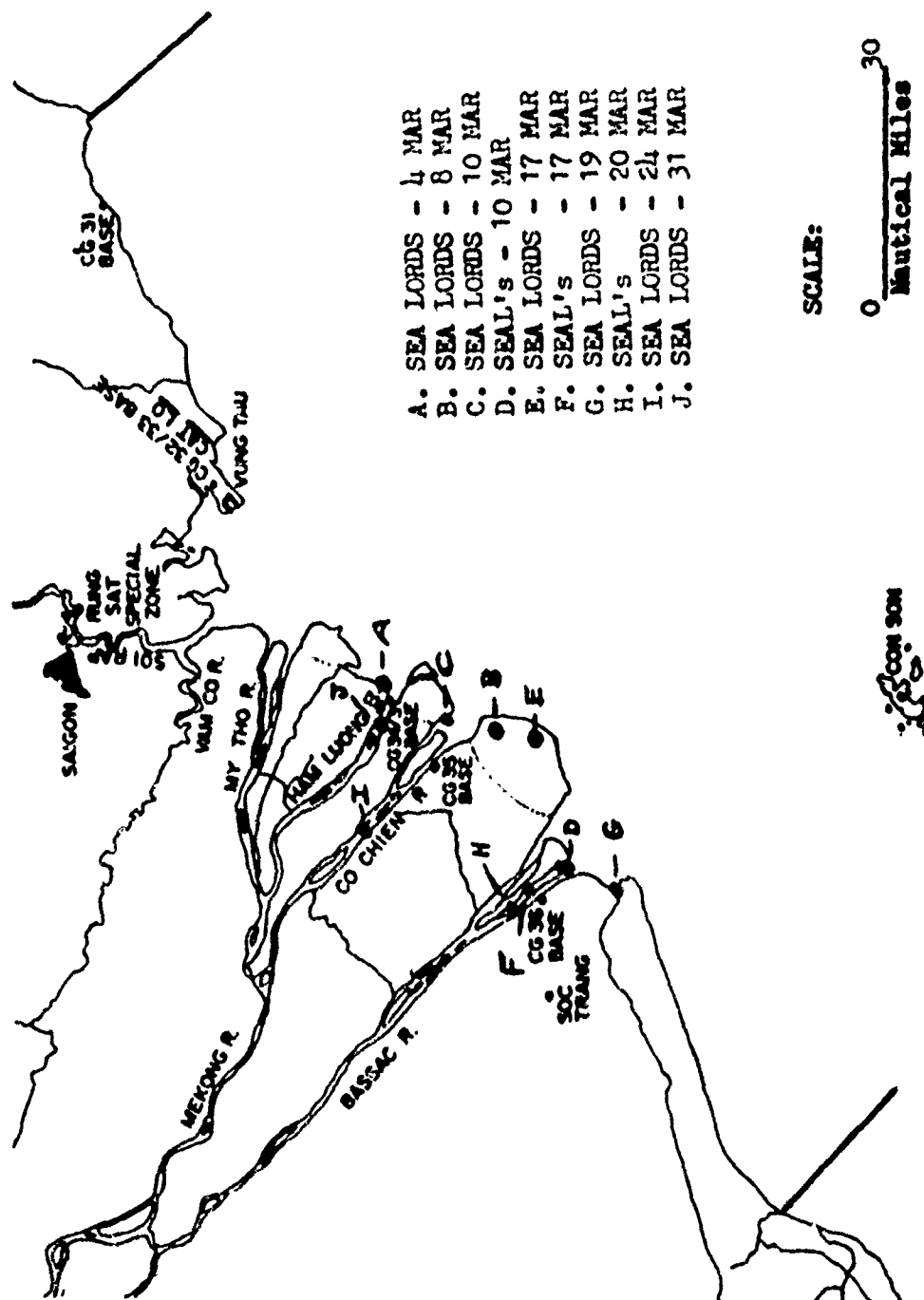
**OPERATIONS IN THE THIRD COASTAL ZONE**



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# MARKET TIDE RAIDERS

## OPERATIONS IN THE THIRD COASTAL ZONE



NO 318714.

Fourth Coastal Zone

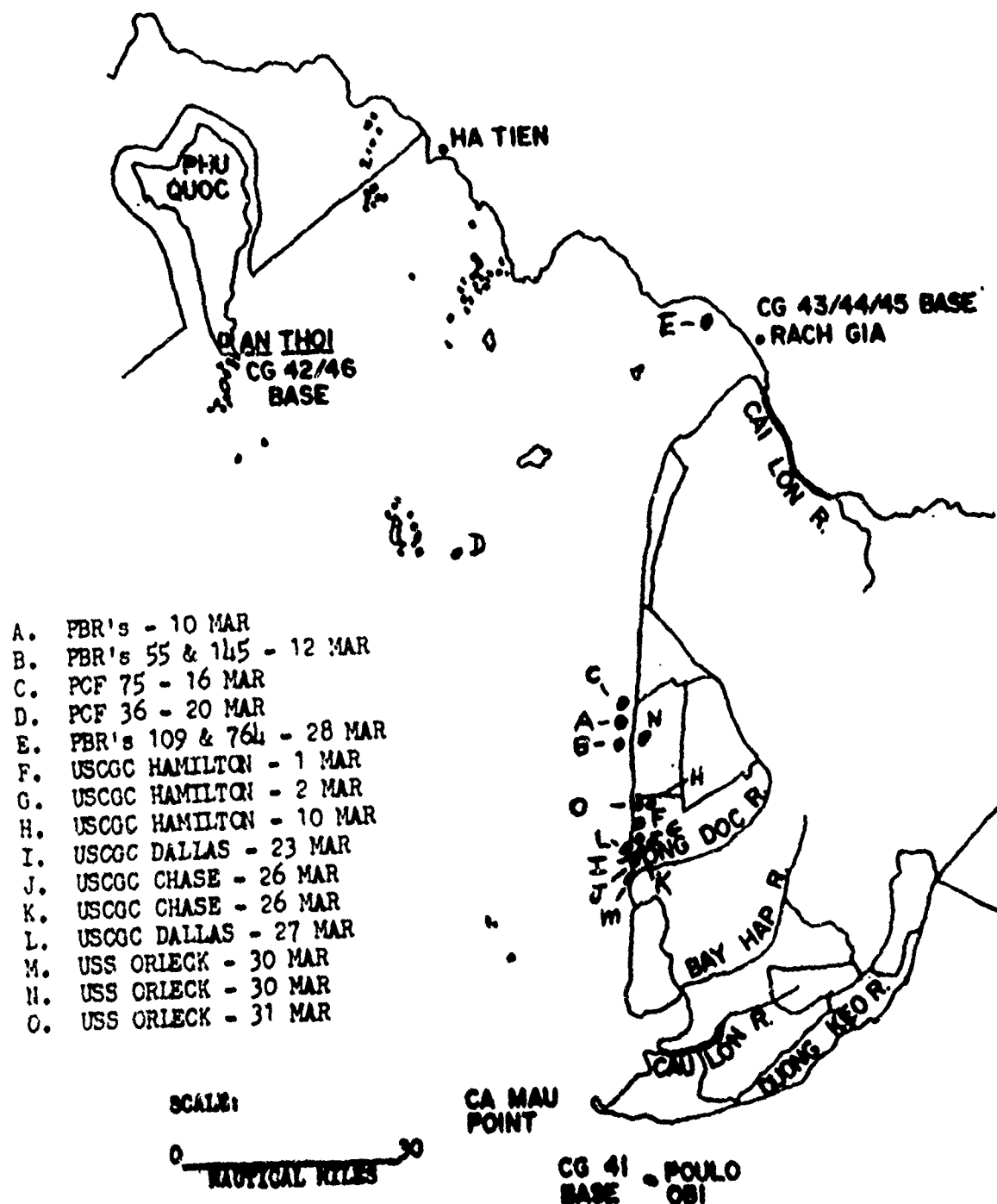
Market Time units returned to the Fourth Coastal Zone at 1200H on 10 March to man seven special patrol areas in Market Time area nine to counter reported Viet Cong infiltration by sea. The units, consisting of four PCF's and 18 PBR's, were assigned to Commander Task Group 115.4/213.4 for a ten day evaluation period. At the completion of eight days operations, 36 persons had been detained for fishing in restricted zones or lack of identification cards; however, none of the detainees were classified as Viet Cong or Viet Cong suspects. Although the results did not substantiate intelligence reports of large scale enemy infiltration in this area. Commander Task Force 115 recommended that these patrols be maintained at their present level and be extended for an additional 20 days and based his recommendation on the situation in Cambodia and the possibility of an increased exodus from Cambodian territory by enemy units

On 20 March, COMNAVFORV directed that eight PBR's be chopped to Commander Task Group 194.0 for assignment to CTG 194.2. On 24 March, six PBR's were chopped to Commander Task Group 194.3 leaving four PCF's and four PBR's for the Special Gulf of Thailand patrol.

The Market Time surveillance units detected 5,465 craft in their special patrol areas. Surveillance results were high as over 80 per cent of the craft were either inspected or boarded. There were 2,014 inspections and 2,483 boardings resulting in the detention of 128 persons.

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OPERATIONS IN THE FOURTH COASTAL ZONE



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Special Gulf of Thailand Patrol

While on patrol on the night of 10 March in special Market Time area BRAVO Two, PBR's of RIVDIV 572 sighted an unlighted sampan about 20 miles north of Song Ong Doc (VR 813 340). The sampan with three occupants immediately evaded to the beach. The sampan was illuminated and taken under fire destroying the sampan. Enemy casualties were unknown.

On the morning of 12 March, PBR's 55 and 145, while on patrol, observed a sampan on the beach about 20 miles north of Song Ong Doc (VR 814 382). Upon closing the sampan, it was found to be abandoned with two other sampans about 200 meters to the south, one of which was camouflaged. Due to shallow water, the PBR's were unable to get closer than 200 meters to the sampans, and they were taken under fire damaging all three sampans.

At 2100H, on the night of 16 March, PCF 75 detected three unlighted sampans close to shore about 23 miles north of Song Ong Doc (VR 8041). PBR 55 and PBR 145, in company with the "Swift" boat, searched the sampans and found various medical supplies and shovels made from ammo boxes and metal casings. One of the occupants stated that he lived in a village close by, and that there were several VC in the area. The three sampans, with nine Vietnamese, were detained and turned over to authorities in Song Ong Doc for further questioning.

On the afternoon of 20 March, PCF 36 was transitting from An Thoi to Ha Tien when BMSA Tran Van Duc fell overboard and drowned. The body was recovered and returned to An Thoi for further disposition.

PBR's 109 and 764 of RIVDIV 513 were on patrol at 1300 on 28 March in special Market Time area 7ULU about 14 kilometers northwest of Rach Gia (VS 988 160) and stopped and searched a sampan. The PBR's found three dead and two wounded Vietnamese. The occupants claimed to have been fired on by a helicopter at 1100H that morning. The occupants were taken to Rach Gia and turned over to the MILPHAP team for disposition.

Gulf of Thailand Offshore Patrol Unit Area 8/9  
(WHEC Assigned) CTG 115.6

On the afternoon of 1 March in a mission cleared by the Naval Gunfire Liaison Officer (NGLO), Ca Mau, the USCGC HAMILTON (WHEC 715 ) fired on a suspected Viet Cong base area about nine miles northeast of New Song Ong Doc (VR 855 145). The cutter destroyed one large structure and one bunker and heavily damaged five structures. In addition, there were three enemy probably killed.

The next afternoon, the HAMILTON was again called on to fire a destructive mission on a VC base area and ammo cache about seven miles north northeast of New Song Ong Doc (VR 850 117). In the mission, the five inch gun of the cutter destroyed one structure, damaged three structures and probably killed three VC.

On the afternoon of 10 March, the USCGC HAMILTON fired a mission on structures, bunkers, and approximately 20 VC in an area about 9 miles north northeast of New Song Ong Doc (VR 860 143). The mission was requested and cleared by the Naval Intelligence Liaison Officer (NILO), Ca Mau. In this mission, the cutter destroyed ten structures and one large sampan and damaged one sampan and 11 structures. There was one secondary explosion. Enemy casualties were unknown.

The USCGC DALLAS (WHEC 716) fired two missions on the afternoon of 23 March about five and eight miles northeast of Song Ong Doc (VR 862 059, VR 854 114). The missions were requested by CTG 194.2 and cleared by the NILO, Ca Mau. In the two missions, the cutter destroyed five structures, one bunker and damaged nine structures and two bunkers. Enemy casualties were unknown.

On the morning of 26 March, the USCGC CHASE (WHEC 718) received a call for fire in support of the 21st ARVN Division. The target was described as a VC position along a canal and located about 7 miles northeast of Song Ong Doc (VR 837 108). The cutter destroyed four structures and three sampans and damaged 11 structures, four bunkers, and two sampans. A late report credited the cutter with one VC killed.

In the afternoon, the CHASE was again called upon to provide support to 21st ARVN Division, about eight miles northwest of Song Ong Doc (VR 859 114). The targets were described as VC structures, sampans, and troop concentrations. The five inch gun of the cutter destroyed one structure and one sampan and damaged three structures and one sampan. There was one VC killed.

The USCGC DALLAS (WMEC716) fired on three enemy positions on the afternoon of 27 March about eight miles north of Song Ong Doc (VR 832 157). The mission was requested and cleared by CTG 194.2. The cutter destroyed seven structures and seven sampans and heavily damaged 14 structures, seven sampans and one bunker. There were three VC probably killed.

The USS ORLECK (DD 886) conducted a call fire mission on the morning of 30 March about three miles north of Song Ong Doc (VR 840 045). The mission was requested by the NILO Ca Mau and consisted of VC structures. The five inch gun of the destroyer damaged 23 structures and ten sampans and destroyed 10 structures and four sampans. There were two VC killed.

In the afternoon, the ORLECK fired a mission about 25 miles north of Song Ong Doc (VR 839 512) on VC structures. This mission was requested by the 7th ARVN Division. There were three structures and one bridge destroyed and three structures damaged along with one secondary explosion. Enemy casualties were unknown.

The following morning, the destroyer was again requested to provide gunfire support to the 7th ARVN Division. The targets were located about 10 miles north of Song Ong Doc (VR 829 006) and consisted of structures and VC concentrations. There were three structures destroyed and eight structures damaged and one VC killed.



### Stable Door

There were 30,318 craft detected by Stable Door forces in the harbors of the Second Coastal Zone during March, more than 10,000 more than the February total of 26,383. Of these, 6,309 were inspected and another 4,955 were boarded. As a result of these checks, 25 craft and 200 persons were detained for lack of or altered identification papers, possession of contraband, or restricted zone violations.

### Unit One - Vung Tau

On 2 March, Picket 29 stopped a 90 foot junk for routine inspection and found a burlap bag containing ten pounds of marijuana. The Master, Vuong Asat, crew, and contraband were detained and turned over to the Coastal Group 33 advisor for disposition.

Picket 29 while on routine patrol was hailed by the fishing trawler YOUNG SHINE 3 and requested to transport a crew member suffering from appendicitis to the pier. The crew member was taken to the pier where a 345th Medical Dispensary ambulance transported the patient to the dispensary for treatment.

On 16 March, the SS HOWELL LIKES, anchored in Foxtrot Eight, notified the Harbor Entrance Control Post (HECP) that they had an injured man aboard and requested assistance. Picket 29 was dispatched to transport the man to the MSTS pier where an Alaska Barge and Transport ambulance transported him to the 345th Medical Dispensary for treatment.

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The USS PAGE COUNTY (LST1076), anchored in Foxtrot Fourteen, requested assistance from the HECF in transporting three injured men to the hospital on 23 March. LCPL 33 picked the injured men up and took them to the MSTS piers where a hospital ambulance transported them to the 345th Medical Dispensary for treatment.

Unit Two - Cam Ranh Bay

Specialist 5 Thomas Turner, U. S. Army, a generator ship sentry, was embarked on LCPL 45 on a routine patrol on the evening of 6 March for indoctrination. During the patrol, Turner dropped a concussion grenade in the boat after pulling the pin. The boat captain, SM2 Tate, told everyone to jump over the side. Turner attempted to retrieve the grenade, and it exploded in his left hand. Turner was taken to the 12th Air Force Hospital where it was reported that he lost his left forearm and hand. There was only minor damage sustained by LCPL 45.

Early on the morning of 9 March, a swimmer at the north end of Cam Ranh Village was investigated by Skimmer 27. A Vietnamese beaching a flotation device, probably an air mattress about four feet by two feet, was observed. The swimmer successfully evaded, and Skimmer 27 resumed normal patrol.

LCPL 66 stopped a water taxi, on the morning of 15 March, for a routine inspection. A Vietnamese female was detained for having six one gallon cans of red lead primer in her possession with "U.S." marked on the cans. The paint was confiscated, and the detainee was turned over to the Military Police, Cam Ranh Bay, for disposition.

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On the evening of 19 March, the AO MILLICOMA was preparing to get underway when she reported to the HECF that some thing was attached to her anchor chain. The EOD Team was notified and made an inspection; however, nothing was found.

Skimmer 26 reported a small junk in a restricted area near the Ammo Pier was attempting to evade on the morning of 24 March. The Vietnamese aboard the junk grabbed something and started running up the sandbar. Warning shots were fired, but he continued running. As he passed the Skimmer, he threw something into the water, and SN Campanella shot him in the left arm. The boat crew then apprehended him and took him to Pier Three where an ambulance transported him to the 12th Air Force Hospital. Intelligence reports indicated that the Vietnamese, Nguyen Do, stated that he heard the warning shots but was afraid and he thought that he could escape completely if he was able to reach his hamlet. It further indicated that the detainee and family had lived in Su Chin village for six years. The EOD Team checked the area for the object which was thrown into the water with negative results.

On the evening of 27 March, Skimmer 27 reported two U. S. Army personnel departing Cam Ranh Village through the fence within five feet of the sentry and then proceeding north up the hill to the road. A short time later, two persons in civilian clothes using the same route to enter the village were hailed. One stopped and was turned over to the M.P.'s who identified him as a crewmember of the U. S. Steam Ship CANTON VICTORY. The M.P.'s also took the sentry into custody for dereliction of duty.

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The Skimmer 30 stopped a water taxi on the evening of 29 March and detained two Merchant Marine Seamen who had boarded the taxi at Cam Ranh Village. The detainees, Gabriel Sellers and Thomas N. Eruska, were turned over to the Military Police for disposition.

Unit Three - Qui Nhon

The Harbor Entrance Control Post received reports on 5 March that a junk carrying VC and supplies had been sighted proceeding south. LCPL 69 was dispatched, and after firing, the junk came alongside. There were six persons aboard the junk but no weapons. Two more junks in the area were stopped and neither had any weapons on board. Fifteen persons were detained and turned over to the VNN S-2 for questioning.

On 10 March, the HECF was notified that a sweep was to be made by a combined police and Rural Force Troops and requested Unit Three to provide a blocking force. The troops picked up six U. S. personnel that were unauthorized absentees from their units and seven VC suspects.

At 0456H, on 12 March, an explosion occurred between the De-long Pier and the AMERCLLOUD causing a hole eighteen feet by five feet, five feet below the waterline. The AMERCLLOUD got underway and was pushed ashore by tugs to keep her from sinking. Two people were sighted in the area after the explosion and were taken under fire with negative results. The ship completed offloading and departed for Singapore for repairs on the afternoon of the 14th.

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A 750 pound bomb was sighted by the 1st Platoon, 203rd Aero Reconnaissance Company on 10 March, and they requested the Stable Door EOD team to dispose of it. The team and three Sea Cobras were taken to the scene where a defensive perimeter was established, and the bomb detonated without incident.

On the night of 6-7 March in a preplanned operation, Sea Cobras were inserted by an Army skimmer near Vinh Quang Village. During the night, several persons were sighted attempting to determine the size of the force; however, no contact was made till daylight on the 7th when loud voices and two sampans were heard approaching their position. The team opened fire when they were within 30 feet killing one VC and wounding three more. The Sea Cobras also captured one VC.

On the morning of 23 March, a 14 month old girl was brought to the HECP with a deep three inch cut in her left leg suffered two days earlier. The assistant Officer-in-Charge cleaned the wound, and then Unit Three personnel took her to the Province Hospital for further treatment.

Unit Four - Nha Trang

A Vietnamese water taxi informed LCPL 43 on 2 March of a body floating in the harbor. LCPL 43 proceeded to the area and spotted the body of a Vietnamese boy. The body was taken to the Unit Four Pier and turned over to the Vietnamese National Police for further transfer to the Province Hospital.

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Skimmers 28 and 74 provided transportation for 150 Montagnard troops and their U. S. advisors on the evening of 2 March.

On the night of 15 March, a U. S. Army Lark informed LCPL 44 that they had spotted a partly submerged object near the power ships. The Stable Door EOD Team proceeded to the area and found a 55 gallon drum partially filled with water but no explosives. The drum was towed to the beach for disposal.

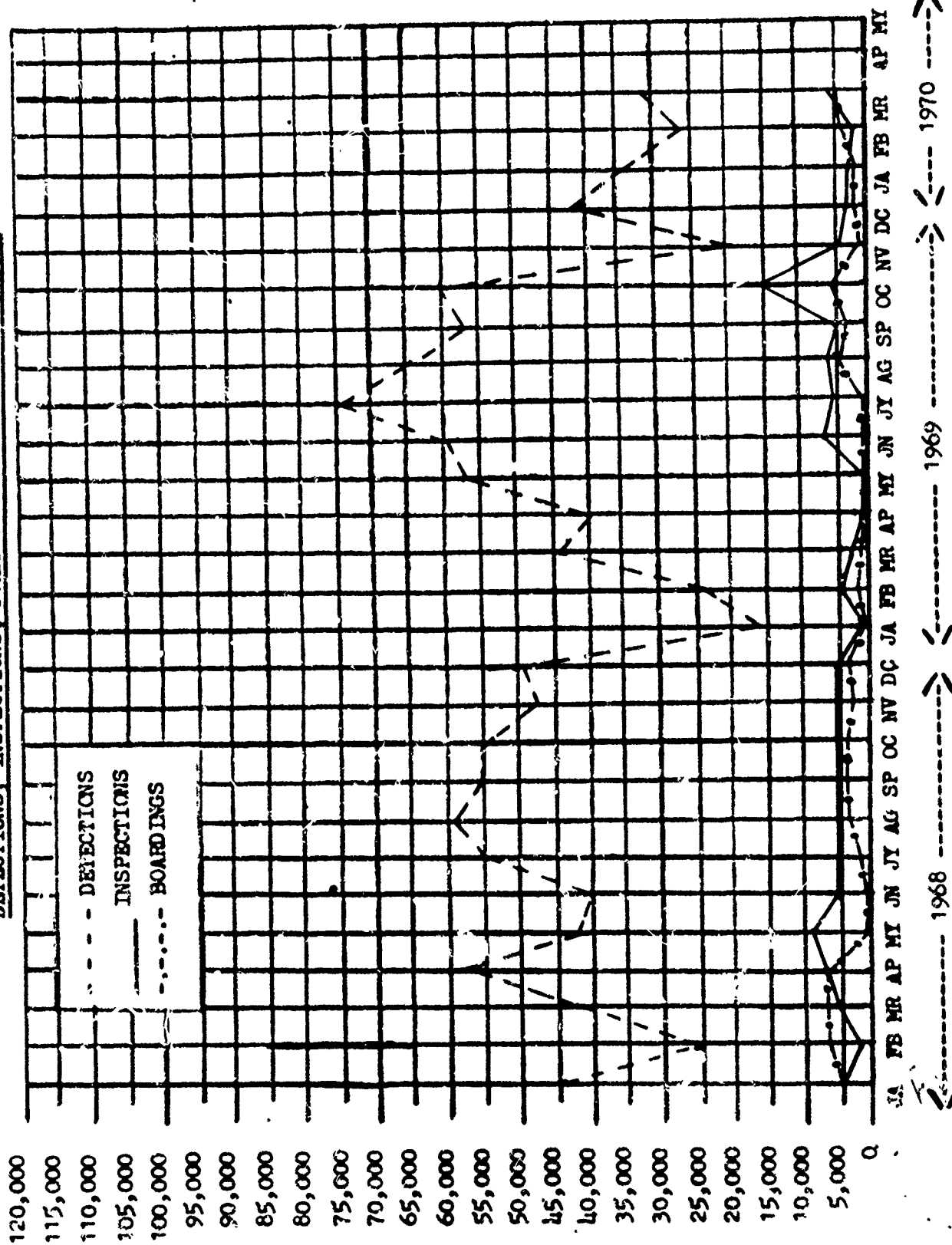
Unit Four provided skimmer transportation throughout the month for small groups of ARVN and Montagnards. However, on 28 March, Skimmer 28 was tasked with providing transportation for Vice President Ky and his personal party from the VNN FGM 609 to his villa.

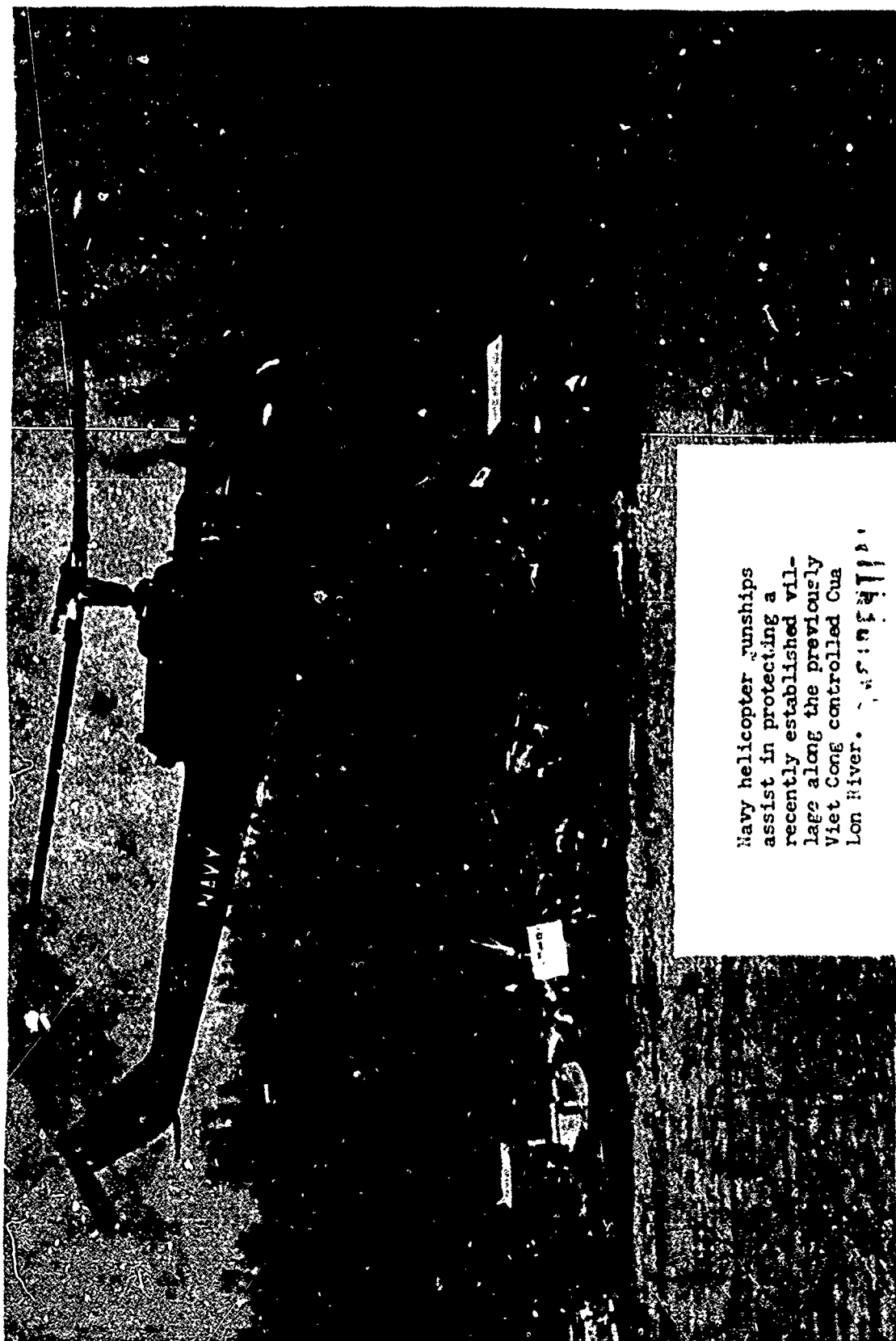
On 30 March, Skimmers 25 and 28, with Vietnamese National Police on board, conducted operations in the North River. The VNNP boarded and searched approximately 35 craft and detained ten Vietnamese civilians and nine small arms of various types. All detainees and weapons were released after verification and identification.

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DETECTIONS, INSPECTIONS, BOARDINGS BY STABLE DOOR UNITS





Navy helicopter gunships  
assist in protecting a  
recently established vil-  
lage along the previously  
Viet Cong controlled Qua  
Lon River. *Associated Press*



### Sea Float/Tran Hung Dao III

During March, there were over 265 gunfire support missions, including Sea Float and SEAL missions. The primary emphasis continued to be pacification of the Ca Mau peninsula, although the gunfire support missions were designed to maximize damage to known or suspected Viet Cong base areas, extortion stations, and secret zones. During the first two weeks of March, the enemy assumed a more aggressive posture as the number of enemy initiated firefights increased. Most of the activity was directed against the Mobile Strike Force troops, rather than the Naval units. However, pre-emptive sweeps by the MSF and SEAL's, and H and I fire by Naval units, have kept the enemy off balance. An example of this occurred on 6 March when nine rounds of H and I fire were placed on several VC reported about three kilometers north of Sea Float. A subsequent sweep of the area uncovered 32 75mm barrage rockets and 13 multiple tube rocket launchers in an L-shaped revetment. Part of the tubes were pointed at the Solid Anchor site and part were pointed at Sea Float. It was estimated that the enemy was about five hours away from launching his rocket attack when he was discovered.

To counter the enemy threat against friendly installations this month, U. S. and VN SEAL's, Kit Carson Scouts, and Mobile Strike Force troops continued the intensive use of randomized sweeps employed the latter part of February. This random area disruption continued to keep the enemy off balance by forcing him to move and denying him the long term use of previously secure base areas. Indications at

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month's end were that these operations had temporarily dispersed any general ground threat; although the enemy does have the capacity to rebuild and reposition.

The security of the Solid Anchor site was also enhanced by the operations in the area and permitted land fill and construction to progress. At month's end, approximately 35 per cent of the land fill was completed. The construction of the Advanced Tactical Support Base portion of Solid Anchor, or that portion which will house those facilities currently aboard Sea Float were 37 per cent completed and included ten large Southeast Asia Hut (SEAHUTS). Landfill was slower than originally anticipated because of rough weather, the dredge breakdown at Poulo Obi, and the strikes against KCK-BRJ in Saigon.

The following U. S. and VNM craft and units operated in the Sea Float AG during part or all of the month: PCF's 3, 9, 17, 22, 35, 36, 37, 38, 52, 56, 72, 73, 82, 89, 92, 94, 96, 691, 692, 693, 694, and 695; USS TERREL COUNTY (LST-1151), USS WASHOE COUNTY (LST-1165); USS ANTELOPE (PG 86), USS READY (PG 87), USS ASHEVILLE (PG 84); LCPL; Sea Float River Assault Craft Detachment consisting of ATC's 4, 9, and 13, ASPB's 2 and 3, Zippo 2, and Utility Boat 2; SEAL Team Detachment GOLF; Underwater Demolition Team 12 Detachment GOLF, Duffle Bag Team CTE 194.1.5.2; Seawolves; Slicks; OV-10's; LSM's HQ 401, HQ 403, and HQ 404; LSSL HQ 228; LSIL HQ 331; VNM PCF's 01, 02, 04, 10, 12, and 13; Coastal Groups 33, 35, and 36 craft and personnel; VNM POLWAR Team; VNM Reaction Team; VNM Rangers; Mobile Strike Force troops; Mobile Strike Team TWO; Detachments FOXTROT AND GOLF; Regional Force

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troops; Kit Carson Scouts; and ECDI/PAC Team VII 03. These forces continued to conduct psyops missions and escort services for logistics craft along the rivers and canals. Air assets provided psyops missions in those areas inaccessible to the craft. The afloat units and the Mobile Advanced Tactical Support Base conducted nightly H and I fire into known and suspected VC base camps and extortion areas.

CDR Patrick, Chief Staff Officer, CTF 115, and CDR Trang, Chief Staff Officer, CTF 213, attended ceremonies at the Trang Hung Dao I village on 7 March.

On 9 March, CAPT E. I. Finke, USN, Deputy Senior Naval Advisor, and CAPT K. T. Chan, VNN Fleet Commander, were briefed on Sea Float and Solid Anchor and toured the Solid Anchor site, Tran Hung Dao villages, and the VNN ships.

RADM H. Suerstedt, USN, First SEA LORDS Commander, Commander Task Group 194.0, and MGEN Dolvin, USA, Prospective Chief of Staff, USMACV, visited Sea Float and were briefed on Sea Float operations and achievements on 10 March.

Commodore Tran Von Chon, VNN, Chief of Naval Operations and Captain Rauch, USN, Senior Naval Advisor, received a short operations briefing on 12 March. The party then visited the Biet Hai camp where Commodore Chon presented awards.

In an awards ceremony on 13 March, Brigadier General Nghi, ARVN, Commanding General, 21st ARVN Division, presented awards to two MSF

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advisors, five U. S. sailors, and four VN sailors. Following the ceremony, the general toured the Tran Hung Dao villages.

On 13 March, Captain David F. Emerson, USN relieved Commander T. R. M. Emory, USN, as Commander Task Group 115.7.

General Rosson, Deputy COMUSMACV, Vice Admiral E. R. Zumwalt Jr., USN, COMNAVFORV, BOEN Nghi, ARVN, CG, 21st ARVN Division, Rear Admiral Tridge, Chief, U. S. Pacific Fleet Chaplains, Colonel Cuong, ARVN, Chief An Xuyen Province, and Captain Dise, USN, Commander Naval Support Activity, Saigon, visited Sea Float on 19 March and received briefing on current operations and construction progress of Solid Anchor.

On 22 March, Commander Paul E. Treagy Jr., USN, relieved Captain David F. Emerson, USN, as Commander Task Group 115.7.

Vice Admiral J. W. Smith, USN, COMPHIBPAC, and staff visited Sea Float on 28 March and was briefed on current operations and intelligence. The party then toured the Solid Anchor site and Kit Carson Scout Camp where the Admiral addressed the KCS.

From 28-30 March, two Field Historians, LCDR W. Isenburg Jr., USN, and LTJG S. Frantz, USNR, visited the Sea Float complex, receiving comprehensive briefings. Easter Sunday was spent on a PCF escorting the USS MARK (AKL-28) with the 14th ammo for Sea Float from the mouth of the Bo De River to Sea Float and at the Tran Hung Dao villages with the Sea Float psyops personnel.

### SEAL Operations

A SEAL mission was conducted on the night of 3 March about five miles southwest of Sea Float (VQ 894 543). The SEAL's were inserted by a slick helo with Seawolves providing air support and set up an interdiction post targeted against VC sampans in the area. A sampan, when hailed, attempted to evade and was taken under fire killing the two occupants. Due to their position being compromised, the SEAL's were extracted by LCPL and returned to the Mobile Advanced Tactical Support Base (MATSB). There were no friendly casualties.

On 9 March, SEAL Team ONE, Detachment GOLF, and a Kit Carson Scout platoon were inserted by Slick about 27 kilometers northeast of Sea Float WQ 263 893 to capture a medical supply station. The troops patrolled 300 meters west to the target and searched the surrounding area. During the search, sporadic small arms fire was received and suppressed without sustaining any friendly casualties while one VC was killed. After the landing zone was secured, the troops were extracted and returned to Sea Float. There were four structures and two tons of rice destroyed and four kilos of medical supplies captured.

Three structures and one ton of rice were destroyed by SEAL's and KCS on the morning of 13 March 18 kilometers northeast of Sea Float (WQ 161 845). The patrol was inserted by Slick, and sweeping south and east, it searched numerous bunkers, structures, and canals. An interdiction post was set as an elderly male approached followed

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by one armed. The first male was detained and the second when hailed attempted to evade and was taken under fire. The troops were then extracted by Slick and returned to Sea Float. There were no friendly casualties and enemy casualties were unknown, and one male was detained.

SEAL's in the Sea Float AO, acting on KCS intelligence, were inserted by Slick about 32 kilometers northeast of Old Nam Can (WQ 169 885) on the afternoon of 14 March to capture village and Viet Cong infrastructures. After insertion, Seawolves and the Slick took a small group of VC under fire. The SEAL's made contact with the enemy a few minutes later and captured two VC who were extracted by Slick while the remainder of the unit established an interdiction site in the elephant grass along the canal. Immediately after extraction, personnel began to return to the area and were taken under fire. The SEAL's called for extraction and began receiving automatic weapons fire. Seawolves and the Slick placed strikes on the enemy positions and suppressed the fire. The extraction of the remainder of the units was accomplished without further incidents. There were nine VC captured and one VC wounded. There were no friendly casualties.

In a mission, the following day, to search a hamlet where a VC squad was reported to be, SEAL's and three KCS were inserted by Slick about 12 miles northeast of Sea Float (WQ 135 823). They patrolled 500 meters east along the canal searching ten hootches with negative results. They then patrolled along the north bank and found one hootch with one ton of rice which was destroyed. The unit was extracted by Slick without any contact with the enemy.

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Six SEAL's and two KCS were inserted by Slick about 11 miles northeast of Sea Float (WQ 124 794) on 25 March to destroy a VC exchange. They patrolled 100 meters to the south to a large hootch and found the PX inside. The patrol then continued to the north searching hootches. They found 50 kilos of rice and ten kilos of clothing hidden in the brush. Four detainees and the captured goods were extracted while the troops continued their patrol. Thirty minutes later, several armed males approached and were taken under fire. The area was then checked and all personnel extracted and returned to Sea Float without further incident. There were three VC killed, one VC probably killed, and four persons detained. In addition, four sampans, two structures, 200 kilos of rice, and miscellaneous supplies were destroyed, and three kilos of medical supplies and three kilos of documents were captured. There were no friendly casualties.

A SEAL mission to capture a District Security Chief was planned on KCS intelligence and was conducted on the afternoon of 27 March about 17 miles northeast of Sea Float (WQ 177 877). Ten SEAL's and one KCS were inserted by Slick and searched the targeted hootch with negative results. Seawolves, providing air support, pinned down two males in bunkers allowing the SEAL's to capture them. The patrol continued north and searched three hootches finding large quantities of rice and a large sampan mortar. Several armed males were sighted during the patrol and taken under fire. The SEAL's were extracted by Slick and returned to Sea Float without further incident. There were four VC killed and two VC captured. The SEAL's destroyed one ton of rice, four structures, and one large sampan motor. There were no friendly casualties.

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Sea Float Missions

At 1930H, 28 February, while inserting Mobile Strike Force (MSF) troops about six miles east of Sea Float (WQ 187 703), PCF's 17 and 94 tripped a claymore mine which impacted astern of the units. At this point, a large barrier was found across the canal with many punji pits along the banks. The MSF swept to the east discovering a small base camp of four hootches and four bunkers in which they set up for the night. As the "Swift" boats withdrew to the Song Cua Lon to set up a waterborne guardpost, they received B-40 fire from the south bank. The fire was immediately returned and suppressed. Two sampans were sighted as they exited the canal and when pursued turned and headed back into the canal. They were taken under fire hitting one VC who fell into the water and wounding the other. Upon investigating, six other sampans were spotted in the canal, but the occupants made good their escape. Four sampans were towed out to the Song Cua Lon, but due to approaching darkness, the other four sampans, which contained three B-40 rockets, rice, and various other assorted food and clothing, were sunk. PCF's 691 and 692 arrived on the scene, and then PCF's 17 and 691 towed the sampans to Sea Float while PCF's 94 and 692 set up a WGBP. At first light on 1 March, the MSF destroyed the base camp and then swept the ambush area with negative results. There was one VC killed and one VC wounded while there were no friendly casualties. In addition, four sampans, two sampan motors, four bunkers, 5,000 pounds of rice, and three B-40 rockets were destroyed. Four sampans, two sampan motors, 1,100 pounds of rice and two kilos of documents were captured.

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On the afternoon of 10 March, Lit Carson Scouts were inserted by  
lick with Seawolves providing air cover about 12 miles northeast of  
Sea Float (10 137 876) to capture a VC supply station. After insertion,  
the KCS patrolled 700 meters to the supply station, while the Seawolver  
took four VC under fire killing two VC. The KCS captured seven VC and  
then destroyed the station. During the extraction, small arms and  
automatic weapons fire was received and suppressed by Seawolves. The  
extraction was then completed, and all units returned to Sea Float. The  
KCS captured 200 kilos of supplies, two kilos of medical supplies, and  
one kilo of documents. They destroyed two sampans, one sampan motor,  
one structure, and two tons of miscellaneous supplies.

On the afternoon of 20 March, PCF's 72 and 691 were escorting the  
tug SAMTIAN and two Pouli Obi barges to the Solid Anchor site when two  
B-40 rockets were received astern of the convoy. The "Swift" boats  
immediately countered with 81mm mortar and .50 caliber machine gun  
fire into the ambush site. Seawolves covering a SEAL mission to the  
north were diverted to the area, and en route, they took a sampan  
leaving the ambush site at high speed under fire. The Seawolves then  
placed strikes in the ambush area and returned to where the sampan  
had been sunk only to find three VC trying to salvage the sampan and  
supplies. A minigun strike was placed on the sampan probably killing  
the three VC. The tug transit then continued to the Solid Anchor  
site without further incident.

On the afternoon of 24 March, A-3, T-9, and 7-2 were en route  
to Square Bay when a male waving a flag was sighted in the water

about 10 miles west of Sea Float (VO 859 609). There were eight other men on the bank. The LAC thought the men were Hoi Chanh, and T-9 took the one man aboard where he revealed that all nine were PD and personnel who had been held in a VC POW camp. That morning while on work detail south of the Song Cua Lon, they made good their escape to the north by overpowering three VC guards. Upon reaching the Song Cua Lon, they patched a sampan and crossed to the north bank and then hailed the RAC's as they headed west. The nine men were taken aboard the RAC and then transferred to PCF's 38 and 56. They were returned to Sea Float and turned over to the Naval Intelligence Officer, Nam Can, for interrogation.

SEVENTHFLT SHIPS

The following SEVENTHFLT ships operated in MARKET TIME during the month of March 1970.

USS EMBATTLE (MSG-434) 1-18  
USS PRIME (MSO-466) 19-31  
USCGC KLAMATH (WHEC-66) 11-31  
USS PEACOCK (MSC-198) 29-31  
USS ANTELOPE (PG-86) 1-10 17-24  
USS READY (PG-87) 7-13  
USS ASHEVILLE (PG-84) 11-26  
USS REAPER (MSO-467) 1-18  
USS ACME (MSO-508) 19-31  
USS WIDGEON (MSC-208) 1-4 23-28  
USCGC DALLAS (WHEC-716) 1-10 22-31  
USCGC MELLON (WHEC-717) 1-11 20-22

PCF's Assigned to Coastal Divisions as of 3 April 1970

ELEVEN A THOI			
3	38	82	693
9	40	88	694
17	50	89	695
18	52	93	
22	56	94	
35	72	96	
36	73	691	
37	75	692	

(27)

THIRTEEN SA DEC		
20	54	87
21	55	90
27	59	95
31	61	97
32	65	98
45	71	99
48	74	102
53	76	103

(24)

PCF's In Overhaul

PCF Location	Commenced	ETC	EST LENGTH
70 Cam Ranh Bay	03 APR 70	12 MAY 70	40 Days
63 Cam Ranh Bay	16 MAR 70	25 APR 70	40 Days
64 Cam Ranh Bay	04 MAR 70	13 APR 70	40 Days
6 Cat Lo	20 FEB 70	04 APR 70	45 Days
60 Qui Nhon	19 MAR 70	03 MAY 70	45 Days

TOTAL NON-ASSIGNED PCF	(05)
GRAND TOTAL	(56)

MARKET TIME  
MONTHLY HISTORICAL SUPPLY  
MARCH 1970  
STATISTICAL SECTION

1. Average No. U. S. ships/craft on patrol during month.

<u>MSO</u> 2	<u>MSC</u> 1	<u>VPB</u> 4	<u>PCF</u> 40	<u>LST</u> 1	<u>PG</u> 2	<u>1HEC</u> 3	<u>PBR</u> 9
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2. Average No. VNN ships/craft employed during month.

<u>SEA FORCE</u> 39	<u>RIVER FORCE</u> 312	<u>COASTAL FORCE</u> 207
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3. U. S. Activity:

TOTAL DETECTED	WOOD	DAY	16, 442	NIGHT	5,862	
	STEEL	DAY	172	NIGHT	184	<u>22,660</u>
 TOTAL INSPECTED	WOOD	DAY	6,342	NIGHT	2,999	
	STEEL	DAY	138	NIGHT	156	<u>9,635</u>
 TOTAL BOARDED	WOOD	DAY	6,293	NIGHT	977	
	STEEL	DAY	3	NIGHT	3	<u>7,276</u>

4. VNN Activity:

JUNKS SEARCHED 74,500	JUNKS DETAINED 69
PERSONS SEARCHED 306,642	PERSONS DETAINED 306

5. U. S. Activity:

JUNKS DETAINED 107	PERSONS DETAINED 575
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6. STABLE DOOR:

JUNKS DETAINED: 30,318  
JUNKS INSPECTED: 6,309  
JUNKS BOARDED: 4,955

7. MARKET TIME HGFS/SEA LORDS:

KIA (BC): 108	KIA(EST): 109	WIA: 24	CIA: 23
JUNKS/SAMPANS DESTROYED: 175	JUNKS/SAMPANS DAMAGED: 49		
STRUCTURES/BUNKERS DESTROYED: 628	STRUCTURES/BUNKERS DAMAGED: 287		

## RIVER PATROL FORCE SUMMARY

### Game Warden

The River Patrol Forces were further reduced during the month of March. River Squadron 53, including five river divisions, was disestablished on the 31st of the month. Operations continued smoothly as River Divisions 511, 512, 514, 515, and 592 turned over their areas of responsibility to their Vietnamese Navy counterparts.

Operational forces assigned to Game Warden during the month included SEAL Detachment ALFA and BJU Team 13 at Binh Thuy; MST Detachments ALFA and DELTA with the Fourth and Fifth SEAL Platoons at Nha Be; and MST Detachment BRAVO at Phu Cuong. Other assigned support included OV-10's on call from VAL-4 at Binh Thuy and Vung Tau. Two HAL-3 helicopters were assigned overhead support at Nha Be in the Rung Sat Special Zone. The remaining Game Warden assets were assigned directly to other operational commanders throughout the Delta.

### Game Warden SEAL Operations

In the Rung Sat Special Zone, SEAL operations consisted of night insertions, setting canal and trail guardposts, support of Wolfpack operations, and search missions in reaction to intelligence.

Contact with the enemy remained at a low level throughout the month with casualties and damage inflicted during the brief contacts generally unknown.

At 0300H on the morning of 6 March, LT Jackoski and LTJG Noris departed Nha Be with a patrol of 11 SEAL's in an MSSC. ENS Scott took the SEAL's down the Long Tau shipping channel to the Dong Dinh River just north of the village of Can Gio in the RSSZ. The SEAL's inserted at YS 087 561 on the east bank of the Long Dong Dinh. This area was a suspected extortionist point for the Viet Cong. The SEAL's moved out to the east on patrol. As the patrol moved out, one of the SEAL's tripped a booby trapped concussion grenade compromising the patrol's position. At 0600, the patrol was extracted by MSSC about 24 kilometers southeast of Nha Be. On return to the base, the wounded SEAL was treated for a ruptured eardrum. No contact was made with the enemy.

At 1000H on the 25th, LT Jackoski with seven SEAL's were deposited by a U. S. Army Slick helicopter south of Nhon Trach at YS 083 785. Once inserted, the SEAL's patrolled to the southeast. After moving through the mud approximately 200 meters, four VC were sighted moving to the south on foot. The patrol took the VC under fire. Receiving light automatic weapons fire in return, the SEAL's requested an air strike. One VC was killed in the exchange of fire. LCDR Wolniewikz placed a strike by LHFT at the direction of the patrol. Moving west approximately 300 meters, the patrol was extracted by Slick and returned to Nha Be at 1115H. There were no friendly casualties.

A six man SEAL patrol. lead by LT Gardner, departed Nha Be by Slick at 2145H on the 25th to insert at YS 047 797 about four kilometers

northeast of Nha Be. CDR Price and LCDR Wolniewikz provided overhead cover with an LHFT. The SEAL's patrolled about two kilometers with no contact just south of Nhon Trach. At 1705H, the patrol was extracted by Slick and reinserted at XS 978 818 at the upper end of the Moung Canal leading off the Nha Be River. As the LHFT provided overhead cover, the SEAL's moved east away from the river. At about 1730H, two VC were sighted but evaded into the thick nippa palm growth before the SEAL Team could open fire. The SEAL's patrolled back to the Moung Canal and were extracted by ENS Marsh in an LSSC, returning to Nha Be at 2145H.

#### Game Warden Operations in the Rung Sat Special Zone

Game Warden units in the Rung Sat Special Zone continued in their support of the VNN operations throughout the month of March. PBR's from TU 116.9.1 provided blocking forces, patrolled the RSSZ, provided cover for SEAL and EOD operations, and gave fire support as required by the Senior Advisor RSSZ. Throughout the month, despite continued patrols, Wolfpack operations, and setting WBOP's, contact with the enemy remained light.

On the 5th of March, five PBR's provided a blocking force for the Vietnamese National Police at Nha Be. At 1515H, one platoon of National Police, embarked on the PBR's, set a waterborne blocking cordon in the waterway of the Nha Be River adjacent to the town of Nha Be. Once the water route was blocked, the National Police began a search of the town. On completion of the search, 14 detainees were



taken. The action took place at the request of National Police of the Nha Be District in Gia Dinh Province and DSA Nha Be. There was no resistance and no friendly casualties.

One of the most extensive operations to take place in the RSSZ began on the morning of the 10th of March. All units in the RSSZ participated in a combined action throughout the day. Participating U. S. Navy units included the RSSZ Senior Advisor, U. S. Navy and Marine Corps Advisors, ASPB's from TO 116.9, PBR's from TU 116.9.1, LHFT's from TU 116.9.8, and OV-10's on call from Vung Tau.

The operation commenced at 0500H as RF Companies 783 and 875, with Marine Corps advisors WO1 Haferkamp and 1stLT James, departed Nha Be in VNN LCM's to establish a base camp at YS 172 799, just south of Song Thanh in Bien Hoa Province about 29 kilometers east of Nha Be. BM1 Patterson with two ASPB's in company with VNN PBR's embarked troops from RF Companies 999, 908, and 362, USMC advisors CAPT Hickman, CAPT Cowan, and 1stLT Grosshans, at 0530H and departed Nha Be to provide security for the base camp.

At 0645H, CDR Price and LTJG Wright in a USN LHFT conducted a sniffer search along the Thi Vai River south of the base camp. Maximum sniffer contact was obtained one kilometer south of the Thi Vai at 0800H. The USAF FAC directed an air strike on this area resulting in four bunkers destroyed and one VC killed.

At 0850H, USA slicks inserted RF Company 875, USMC Advisor 1st LT James, at YS 177 787, two kilometers south of the Thi Vai River.

The troops swept to the northeast through the area of the previous air strike. Remaining in the area until 1510H, no enemy contact resulted, and the Company returned to the base camp by Slick helicopter.

RF Company 367, USMC Advisor 1stLT Grosshams, inserted by Slick at 0913H in the vicinity of YS 154 813, where the Ben On Canal enters the Thi Vai River. The troops swept to the northwest and at 0925H, sighted an unknown number of Viet Cong. Taking the fleeing VC under fire, the RF Company captured one 155mm round, a small amount of flashlight batteries, and assorted clothing. Enemy casualties were unknown. Continuing the sweep, at 1445H, the troops found indications of fresh enemy activity. At the request for an air strike, CDR Price and LTJG Wright placed fire into YS 152 804 with two Seawolves. The RF Company now swept to the southwest and at 1510H received enemy automatic weapons fire. The Seawolves again hit the enemy position as the ground troops returned the fire. Sweeping through the enemy position at 1610H, the company found blood trails at YS 151 802. Following the trails, the enemy again engaged the troops in an automatic weapons fire exchange. There were no friendly casualties, and Slicks returned the patrol to base at 1640H.

CAPT Cowan, USMC, inserted with RF Company 908 at 1000H in the vicinity of YS 155 798, approximately two kilometers south of the other ongoing operations. On departure of the inserting Slick helicopters, the troops moved out to the northwest. One hour later, having covered three kilometers through maddy grass and short nippa

palm growth, the patrol came across fresh indications of enemy activity. At 1110H, the USN LHFT placed strikes in the area. Eleven minutes later, contact was made with the enemy. Two RF troopers were wounded in the ensuing fire fight. The LHFT provided overhead cover as the wounded were medevaced. As the ground troopers held their ground, an additional LHFT was scrambled to place air strikes on the enemy positions. One secondary explosion was observed during the air strike. Later, sweeping the area of the air strike at the head of the Ben Lon Canal, the troops found two VC killed and five bunkers destroyed. Clearing the area, the troops called for further air support, and the USAF FAC directed two Tactical Air Strikes on the position resulting in another secondary explosion and five more bunkers destroyed. At 1700H, the RF Company extracted by Slick helicopter to the base camp.

RF Company 999, CAPT Hickman, USMC, advisor, inserted at YS 151 801 as a blocking force. At 1330H, an LHFT providing overhead cover for the insertion sighted an unknown number of enemy near the company. The LHFT took the VC under fire killing four. Six minutes later, the RF troops killed another VC in the Landing Zone. The RF Company began a patrol of the immediate area and at 1435H captured one NVA with one K-50. At 1530H, enemy contact was again gained. In the ensuing fire fight, one RF trooper was wounded, one VC killed, and one AK-47 captured. From 1600H to 1810H, when the Company extracted by Slick, LHFT's placed air strikes in the area on call. The continuing intermittent contact resulted in six more

VC killed. As RF 999 extracted, five VC were sighted at XS 157 813 crossing the Ben Son Canal. Supporting LHMT's placed airstrikes on the position.

Intermittant contact with the enemy continued until termination of the operation (called Chuong Duong) at 2035H that night. Throughout the day, 1stLT Phipps, USMC, PSSZ ECLC, provided airborne coordination for the operation in an OV-10 provided from Vung Tau.

The result of the day's operation included one NVA captured, 53 VC killed, 16 bunkers destroyed, some secondary explosions, and two RF troopers wounded in action.

On the night of the 20th at 1915H, LTJG Curelop, LT McCainley, and CPO Merrill were proceeding to a night waterborne guardpost position approximately 20 kilometers south of Nha Be when the lead boat in a column of six PBR's heard a loud explosion. The cover boat PBR was blown apart by what was believed to be a command detonated mine at XS 985 625. Two USN sailors were wounded in action. The PBR's and LHMT's reconned the bank by fire and observed one secondary explosion. The PBR was a total loss.

Operation Chuong Duong continued throughout the month utilizing all forces available in the RSSZ. In conjunction with military operations, the RSSZ PSYOPS Team with CW02 Haferkamp, USMC, Dental Officer LT Ravencroft, Medical Officer LT Kays, HMC Crawford, and a VJ medical team conducted medcaps and PSYOPS missions in the villages near the operations areas.

### CTF Clearwater

Reorganization for CTF Clearwater units commenced in February and continued into the month of March. Beginning 15 February, NSAD Cua Viet and the Dong Ha ramp were closed except for the off loading of rock barges by U. S. Army engineers and MCB personnel. Continuing that action, the water LOC was closed on 15 March. NSAD Cua Viet and ASTB Cua Viet were closed 15 March while ATSB Clearwater (opened 15 February) was commissioned as a command on 21 March. On 15 March, eight craft and crews were transferred from NSAD Tan My to CTF Clearwater in order to assume the increased responsibility for the Tan My harbor security and LOC. Clearwater minesweeping units based at ASTB Cua Viet were tasked to be able to open the Cua Viet/Dong Ha water LOC from a mine clearance standpoint on a 72 hour notice.

The Tan My and Hue River harbor security craft were assigned to CTF Clearwater on 15 March in order to provide security at Tan My and Col Lo Island, while the Commander Dong Ha River Security Group, located at the old NSAD Cua Viet site, was tasked for sweeping and interdiction operations on the LOC. This function is scheduled to be transferred to the VNM Minesweeping and Interdiction Division 92 on 1 July. Bank security was tasked to Commander XXIV Corps. On 15 March, the EODMUPAC Team was reassigned to Tan My. On the 22nd of March, COMNAVFORV assigned the Task Group designator 116.8 to CTF Clearwater effective 1 April.

Intelligence sources reported continued infiltration into the Hue and Perfum River areas. One report, on the 10th of March, indicated that three motorized sampans carrying one platoon of sappers and infantry with ammunition and different types of mines departed from YD 231 800. They crossed the Ben Hai and followed a small stream into the area of Trung Hai and Trung Giang to the vicinity of YD 224 777. They were reinforcements intended for two infantry/sapper companies. They dispersed and hid in the vicinity of YD 232 778 for further infiltration into the area of the Cua Viet River.

The Dong Ha River Security Group and the Hue River Security Group continued patrols, checking ID cards, minesweeping, Psyops missions, and conducted medcaps. Most of the Vietnamese detained were curfew violators.

Mining attempts by the enemy continued in all patrolled waterways throughout the month. Patrol Officer BMC Nelson and Boat Captain SN Howard were beached in LCM-28 on the north bank of the Cua Viet River extracting elements to the A/4/12 Cavalry Troop at 1753H on the 4th of March. The LCM-28 crew observed an object floating towards them, about 15 feet upriver and ten feet from the bank. The troopers threw concussion grenades at the floating object from the bank. A secondary explosion raised a 60 foot high water spout. There were no casualties.

There were no personnel casualties in the month of March from enemy mining efforts.

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Enemy Mining/Harrassment/Attacks on Merchant Shipping

On the 4th of March, the Master of the Liberian Tanker SS ROYAL VENTURE reported on his arrival at the ESSO Tank Farm that the ROYAL VENTURE had come under rocket attack in the Long Tau shipping channel at about 0952H that morning (vic YS 120 572) just as the ship was entering the Nha Be River from the Ganh Rai Bay. Three B-40 rockets were fired at the ship from the left bank. The first round passed over the ship, the second fell short, while the third B-40 hit the ship amidships on the portside at the boot topping causing superficial damage. There were no personnel casualties.

The ROYAL VENTURE did not report the attack until her arrival at the tank farm due to faulty radio equipment.

RF Company 875 was in the area at the time of the attack. On observing the rocket trails, the company swept the immediate firing with no contact with the enemy.

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USN STATISTICAL SUMMARY

	<u>MARKET TIME</u>	<u>GAME WARDEN</u>
Detections	22,660	4,530
Inspections	9,635	1,011
Boardings	7,276	1,927
Craft detained	107	0
Persons detained	575	15
Viet Cong suspects	99	0
Hostile fire incidents	26	4
Enemy casualties:		
a. Killed	217 (108BC, 109 EST)	127
b. Wounded	24	24
c. Captured	23	0
USN casualties:		
a. Killed	0	0
b. Wounded	0	24
c. Captured	0	0
d. Missing	0	0
Enemy material losses:		
a. Destroyed:		
(1) Junks or sampans	175	6
(2) Structures	628	26
b. Captured:		
(1) Junks or sampans	*	0
(2) Weapons	*	8
(3) Ammunition (rounds)	*	0
(4) Rice (tons)	*	0
c. Damaged:		
(1) Junks or sampans	49	0
(2) Structures	287	11
USN material losses:		
a. Destroyed:		
(1) Surface craft	0	0
(2) Helicopters	0	0
b. Damaged:		
(1) Surface craft	3	0
(2) Helicopters	0	0
SAR missions	0	0

Remarks: \* Information not available or not applicable.



NAVAL ADVISORY GROUP SUMMARY

Vietnamese Navy

Fleet Command and Central Task Force

The VNN Fleet Command and Central Task Force continued their usual routine of NGFS, logistics support, and H and I missions on the rivers. LSM supply runs to Sea Float were on schedule, with three of four runs conducted at seven day intervals. On 4 March, the men of LSSL 228 commenced building an information service office in Hamlet #1 of Operation Sea Float. The purpose of the project was to reinforce harmonious relations between the hamlet and the VNN by providing a location where business and social functions could be held as well as providing a dispensing point for psyops material. The idea was conceived by the Commanding Officer, LSSL 228. On 22 March, the center was presented to the village chief in a ceremony attended by CTG 115.7. Sea Float held a medcap in conjunction with the ceremony.

Fleet Command units operated in conjunction with other commands periodically. On 3 March, for instance, LSIL 329 departed Saigon to participate in joint patrol with TG 115.3 in the Cua Dai and Ilo Ilo Island area. In all, Fleet Command ships provided 71 gunfire support missions in March. Her patrol ships, PCF's, and WPB's searched 9711 junks and 32,140 people, detaining two junks and 14 people.

### First Coastal Zone

First Coastal Zone forces maintained their usual high level of activity in March as 32,794 junks and 141,121 people were searched with 46 junks and 179 people detained. Significant contacts were made both on the rivers and at base outposts with quite a few VC initiated attacks. The Hoi Chanh rate also remained high; on 3 March, six VC rallied in the area of CG 14; on 9 March, three rallied in the vicinity of CG 13; on 11 March, the fourteenth rallier from Barrier Island (BT 330 650) since 21 February reported to PCF 3885; and on 14 March, one more rallied to CG 13. This high defection rate was attributed to the fast reaction time on the part of friendly psyops forces and to hunger, disillusionment, and need for medical attention on the part of the VC. The defectors claimed that tapes were more influential than leaflets.

A brief VC rocket attack on the CG 14 base and Doi village at 0300 on 3 March produced one VC killed, one VC wounded, and one Vietnamese civilian killed. On 9 March, the Cam Thanh outpost was hit by a VC platoon and resulted in the death of two RF and one RD cadre members. Two CG 14 units were called in. They strafed the area, captured a beached sampan, believed to belong to the platoon, and stood by for the remainder of the night with no contact made. The CG 14 sweep team accounted for three more VC/NVA killed on the night of 12 March when they took two sampans under fire near Cam Thanh Island.

Perhaps the most significant event for CG 11 during March was the mining of one of its junks. The boat exploded on 7 March in the Dong Ha River resulting in the deaths of three VNI and one wounded. Pieces of the plastic pressure type mine were later recovered by the Dong Ha River security group.

On 9 March, a unit of CG 13 picked up two VC female medics and one VC male from Loc Tu local guerilla unit operating in the Bu Lu locale.

#### Second Coastal Zone

The junks of the Second Coastal Zone detained 14 junks and 66 people during March with no major contacts with the enemy. On 11 March, a CG 28 junk carrying a working party of 25 on the river near Phan Thiet received a hand grenade thrown from another nearby fishing junk. The grenade bounced off the deck and detonated under water. The two VC suspects connected with the incident claimed they were trying to catch a big fish. The 15 year old suspect said he obtained the grenade from his brother in the Army. He was handed over to the National Police.

#### Third Coastal Zone

Most of the Third Coastal Zone groups' activity for the month involved guardposts rather than detection and search operations, no junks having been detained throughout March. The CG 35 ambush team along with a company of PF's set an overnight guardpost on 14

March five miles east of Tra Vinh and killed one VC. Another VC was killed the next day during a group sweep involving PF's and two CG 35 units. By far, the most major encounters during the month occurred on 18 March when two CG 35 skimmers, the PT CAUTION, the PT CYPRESS, and two OV-10A's combined to produce seven probable VC kills 22 miles south southeast of Tra Vinh.

On 21 March, CG 33 conducted a medcap at Ong Lu village, five miles east of Vung Tau, on Long Son Island. The corpsmen treated 150 people. Soap, soft drink mix, and psyops leaflets were distributed. The month's progress also included four Hoi Chanhs.

#### Fourth Coastal Zone

On 8 March, a special Gulf of Thailand patrol was initiated prompted by intelligence reports that enemy junks would try to bring supplies to the U-Minh Forest. Special emphasis was given to patrol area 9 with troop sweeps conducted on suspect islands, such as Hon Heo and Ile d'Quest, but the number of junks detained and enemy personnel encountered - essentially none - did not confirm expectations. The patrol was extended 20 days until April 9th but failed to produce significant results. The advisors' evaluations of VNN patrols, particularly PGM's 610 and 605, were very complimentary.

### Third and Fourth Riverine Areas

The River Assault Groups continued their usual troop insertion and logistics efforts during March. RAG 21/33 spent most of its time conducting daily operations out of Dong Tan, inserting ARVN and RF units at various points along the My Tho and Nam Luong Rivers. A major sweep was made on 18 March when 12 units from RAG 21/33 (two monitors, six LCM-6's, two PCN's, and two LCVP's) inserted four companies of ARVN 4/10 Battalion at two points on the Co Chien River, about six nautical miles north northwest of Tra Vinh. The troops were inserted at 2100. The RAG boats maintained position overnight on the river and conducted blocking force operations the next morning at 0800. At 1000, the troops were partially extracted and deposited at the Nam Luong Ferry Landing. The results of the operation as of 1700 on 19 March were 23 VC killed and 27 VC captured along with two Russian rifles, one AK-47, and 12 grenades.

RAG 22's major activity for the month was the discovery of weapons caches. Acting on intelligence from a Hoi Chanh, two PCN's of RAG 22 departed Ben Luc with 20 National Police at 1230 on 3 March and proceeded about three miles up the Rach Bau Tan. A cache was found under about eight feet of water in the canal (vic XS 597 717) and amounted to 1,000 AK-47 rounds, a B-40 round, and a sampan. The next day another expedition was initiated with 15 national police and three members of EOD Team 44, USN. The area immediately downstream from the previous day's find was searched and produced 1,500 AK-47 rounds, nine B-40 rounds, seven 75mm R. rounds, a Chicom hand grenade, and a sampan.

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VNN casualties for the RAG's were light. At 0530 on 6 March, four RAG 22 units were returning to Ben Luc after an overnight WBGP when the lead FOM, HQ 5011, received a near miss from an unidentified RPG. Shrapnel seriously wounded the VNN boat captain and gunner.

#### RAIDS

The River Assault and Interdiction Divisions continued their troop lifts, fire support, and river patrol missions throughout March experiencing two major encounters and the loss of a boat.

RAID's 72, 73, and 74 had been on a rotating schedule since February supporting VNNMC operations at the southern tip of the U-Minh Forest under the OPCOM of the 7th ARVN Division. The beginning of March thus saw RAID 74 in the midst of a standown at Long Xuyen. RAID 72 began her transit to Long Xuyen on the morning of 4 March, having been relieved of her support duties by RAID 73 on 3 March. It arrived at Long Xuyen at 061900H.

RAID 73 then commenced a continuous patrol of the Trem Trem River from WR 10 33 to WR 02 51 in support of 2nd Battalion VNNMC units operating on the east bank, and it continued this type of operation in this general area for the duration of the month. On 9 March, the AO changed slightly as seven Tango boats and nine Alpha boats lifted 300 2nd Battalion troops to Rach Tieu Dua, a branch of the Trem Trem, and commenced blocking force operations from VR 99 38 to VR 92 44. On the morning of 10 March, RAID 73 units received small arms and B-40 rocket fire just south of their

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operations area (from MR 03 28) resulting in five VNI wounded. Another VNI was wounded the next day in a similar incident in the same area.

At 1800 on 15 March, RAID 72 shifted her support to the 4th Battalion, 32nd Regiment, 21st ARVN Division and lifted 340 troops from IR 0250 to VR 95 61 using six Tango and nine Alpha boats. It then commenced a 24 hour patrol south of Dong Hung and sent four boats to Ca Mau for fuel. On 22 March, at 0045, RAID 73 units were beached, waiting for ARVN units at the 32nd Regiment command post near Dong Hung (VR 95 60) when VC initiated an attack on the command post. The enemy was driven back at the expense of nine VNI wounded, two seriously. The battle lasted six hours and 20 VC were killed. Three boats received B-40 rocket hits above the water line (HQ 6530, 1226, and 1230) and proceeded to Dong Tam for repairs. Five units of RAID 73 were again ambushed with B-40's on the morning of 28 March from both banks of the Trem Trem River; four VNI were wounded, four VC killed, and four boats moderately damaged. The remainder of the month was relatively uneventful for RAID 73 as it conducted troop lifts and patrols in the same area.

RAID's 72 and 74 remained in a standown status at Long Xuyen until 13 March when they were shifted to Dong Tam which was to be the new homeport of RAID 74 until Binh Thuy was completed. The two divisions, less three boats of 72 which had remained alongside the ASHARI, arrived in Dong Tam at 2100 on 14 March and prepared to support VNIIC Brigade GRAVC operations in Kien Hoa Province.

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Departing Dong Tam at 0200 on 17 March, they picked up two companies of the 5th Battalion and inserted them at the confluence of the Ben Tre and Ham Luong Rivers (XS 55 19). The two RAID's divided the remainder of the month between inserting and extracting VNNC units along the Ben Tre and Ham Luong Rivers and providing blocking patrols for operations in process.

A major encounter with the enemy occurred on 22 March at 0145 as RAID 74 units were patrolling the eastern stretch of the Ben Tre River (XS 615 245), an area never before encroached upon by RAC's. Suddenly, the ATC HQ 1236 was being hit with recoilless rifle fire, then shuddered under a mine explosion, and soon sank. The only personnel casualties were a VNNC with minor wounds. The enemy was subdued but never apprehended. A visit to the ambush scene by CSO 211 on the morning of the 22nd revealed the ATC inverted in mid-channel in about 20 feet of water with two feet of the bow above water. Members of HCU-1 surveyed the wreckage the afternoon of 24 March, and salvage operations began on 30 March. Three boats and two companies of the 1st Battalion remained in the area to provide security as the sunken craft was pulled to shore by wire. The salvage operations were still progressing by the end of the month.

RAID's 70, 71, and 75 worked with SEA LORDS operations throughout the month. RAID 75 had been assigned to Operation Search Turn on 23 February for one month, and it proved so effective that a one month extension was requested and granted on 20 March. RAID's 70 and 71 continued operations on Giant Slingshot with a minor shift



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of units on 10 March: RAID 70, except for four Alpha boats, was sailed from Hoc Hoa to Tan An; RAID 71 units were sailed from Tan An to Ben Luc, two of her Tango boats then leaving for Tra Cu on 11 March for a heavy troop lift.

Along with supervising their afloat units, members of ATF 211 headquarters in Dong Tam also managed to conduct two medcaps in March. On 9 March, the VIN Polwar Officer and doctor, accompanied by their advisor counterparts and three VIN enlisted men, treated 70 people and distributed magazines, posters, candy, leaflets, and RVN flags and plaques in Thoi Don Village. The next day, the same group returned to the village and treated 101 more people.

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### River Patrol Groups

The River Patrol Groups continued their routine WBG's and interdiction operations in March with relatively little contact with the enemy.

RPG 51 saw the most action for the month. At 2030 on 11 March, while in WBG, one unit of 51 sighted six VC sampans moving south along the western bank of the river. The PBR opened fire and received return fire from the eastern bank of the river. Three sampans sank as two other units from RPG 51 arrived and assisted in repressing enemy fire. An LHFT arrived at 2042 and executed firing runs for approximately 20 minutes. The PBR's took the three remaining sampans in tow and returned to Cat Lai at 2055. There were no friendly casualties with 15 probable VC kills. Items captured included 60 B-40 rockets, one 60mm mortar, four AK-47's, 5,000 AK-47 rounds, 125 pounds of rice, medical supplies, and 100 documents.

Another unit from RPG 51 saw a different type of action at 1600 on 23 March. PBR 7506 was returning to Cat Lai from Eastern Repair, VNNSY, when she collided head on with a tug while rounding a bend in the Saigon River. The PBR sank, and two VNN's were seriously injured.

Three new RPG's were formed on 31 March. RPG 55 was given an additional 12 boats at the BINNEWAN which would supplement the extant patrol of eight boats on the Cho Goa Canal. RPG 56 was activated at Moc Hoa, 57 at Nha Be. Each new RPG was composed of 20 boats and were formed from former USN River Divisions 511, 512, 514, 531, 592, and ten overhaul craft.

## VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS

### Brigade "A"

Under the OPCON of the 21st ARVN Division, Brigade "A", composed of the 2nd, 3rd, and 7th VNMC Infantry Battalions and the 1st VNMC Artillery Battalion minus, had just initiated reconnaissance in force operations in an area approximately 11 miles north northwest of Ca Mau in An Xuyen Province (vic WR 103 329) at the beginning of the month. Concentrating on Air Cavalry Eagle Flight tactics, Brigade and artillery command post security missions, infantry sweeps, and small unit guardpost operations, the Brigade established no major enemy contact through 26 March.

On 27 March, Brigade "A", including all the units that were previously assigned with the exception of the 2nd Battalion, which was relieved by the 6th Battalion on 23 March, shifted operations to the northwestern edge of the U-Minh Forest in Kien Giang Province (vic VR 556 677). No significant action was reported by the Brigade as it continued airmobile operations and RIF missions in the new area through the end of the month.

### Brigade "B"

In March, Brigade "B," which included the 4th, 5th, and 6th Infantry Battalions and the 2nd VNMC Artillery Battalion, carried out RIF operations in Kien Hoa Province (XS 551 317) under the OPCON of the 7th ARVN Division. Primary missions assigned to the Brigade

were Eagle Flight operations, Brigade and artillery command post security, small unit patrols, and guardpost missions. Enemy activity was light as no major contact was reported during the month.

There was one Brigade task organization change on 10 March when the 1st Battalion relieved the 6th Battalion. On 17 March, VNN RAID's 72 and 74 joined the Brigade and began making insertions and extractions of the maneuvering elements.

#### 1st Infantry Battalion

At the end of February, the 1st Infantry Battalion, under JGS control, had been relieved of the CMD alert status and had returned to their Thu Duc base camp. The Battalion remained in a stand down status until 10 March when it replaced the 6th Battalion in Kien Hoa Province (vic XS 551 317) and assumed the Brigade and artillery CP security missions. On 25 March, Eagle Flight operations were initiated with the VNN RAID elements. Operations were continued through 31 March with no significant encounters with the enemy reported.

#### 2nd Infantry Battalion

Following an administrative lift with Brigade "B" into the new area of operation in An Xuyen (vic VR 920 343) on 27 February, the 2nd Infantry Battalion commenced operations with an airmobile assault followed by infantry sweeps in March. A brief contact on the evening of 3 March 17 miles north northwest of Ca Mau (WR 082 499) netted one VC killed and one AK-47 captured. Two days later and approximately

three miles to the east (WR 033 460), elements of the 2nd Battalion surprised a small VC units. Five VC were killed and 54 enemy weapons were uncovered. Evidence of the enemy activity continued to appear as reflected on 7 March when the 2nd Battalion discovered two VC company size base camps 16 miles north northwest of Ca Mau (vic WR 038 412) which yielded 94 VC grenades, six mines, 44 claymore mines, 2,500 rounds of small arms ammunition, four M-1 carbines, one CKC, one pistol, three Mausers, one M-79 grenade launcher, and ten 82mm mortar rounds. Two VC were also killed in the encounters.

On 13 March, two small contacts during company sized RIF operations (vic VR 890 328) concluded with a total of two VC killed and one VC and one CKC taken into custody. The next day, nine Marines were wounded by a mine incident, and two Marines were killed by a booby trap and gunfire. One small cache was also uncovered (vic VR 846 286). Enemy resistance was again met on 15 March when a VNMC company sized RIF operation on the western edge of the U-Minh Forest 19 miles northwest of Ca Mau (VR 848 292) engaged a small enemy force. Three VC were killed and two 1917 Springfield rifles, 85 claymore mines, and two 105mm rounds handmade into mines were confiscated. Another cache consisting of 1,200 sheets of tin, 26 rolls of steel wire, 80 hand grenades, 20 B-40 rockets, nine claymore mines, and nine 82mm rounds was uncovered on 16 March in the same general area (vic VR 843 288) of the contact on the previous day. Seven VNMC were wounded by two separate mine incidents on 17 March, and one VC Chieu Hoied to the Battalion on 19 March.

The 2nd Battalion was relieved on 23 March and returned to their Thu Duc base camp. While under JGS control, the Battalion was expected to stand down for approximately two weeks.

### 3rd Infantry Battalion

The 3rd Infantry Battalion remained with Brigade "A" during the relocation of the forces into the new operating area north of Ca Mau in An Xuyen Province at the end of February and was initially assigned the mission of providing security for the Brigade "A" forward CP (vic WR 090 459). While conducting an RIF infantry sweep 23 miles northwest of Ca Mau (VR 894 467) on 9 March, 3rd Battalion units encountered a VC minefield that took a heavy toll of the Marines. Before they had successfully negotiated the area, four VNMC had been killed by enemy mines and another 25 VNMC wounded. Later in the month on 19 March, the Marines established contact with a small VC force on the Western edge of the U-Minh Forest 18 miles northwest of Ca Mau (VR 907 363). The action was brief with the end results reported as two VC killed, one VC captured, and eight hand grenades confiscated. Security operations and infantry sweeps were continued through the end of the month with no significant results.

### 4th Infantry Battalion

At the beginning of March, the 4th Infantry Battalion was conducting company size patrols, airmobile assaults, and artillery security missions while supporting an RIF mission with Brigade "B" in Kien Hoa Province (vic XS 670 218). Towards the middle of the

month, activity began to increase for the 4th Battalion. On 13 March, a company size Marine element killed two VC and captured one AK-47 and four hand grenades 14 miles south southwest of My Tho (XS 580 203). The following morning, one VC was taken into custody (XS 701 250), and two cases of machine gun ammunition were found (XS 602 188). That afternoon, three separate mining incidents accounted for a total of two Marines killed and eight Marines wounded. During one of the mining incidents, the VNMC discovered a VC hospital that contained 25 beds. On 27 March, two separate actions involving the 4th Battalion ended with one VC killed and one VC and one VC suspect captured (XS 571 340). One AK-47 and one kilogram of documents were also recovered.

#### 5th Infantry Battalion

Operating in Kien Hoa Province (vic XS 547 256), the 5th Battalion under the OPCON of Brigade "B" carried out CP security missions, Eagle Flight Operations, and company size infantry patrols. No significant contacts were reported in the first part of the month. However, enemy mines inflicted Marine casualties totaling three killed and 49 wounded in the first 20 days of March. From 20-31 March, the 5th Battalion had numerous small contacts in the area that ended with 25 VC killed and seven VC and nine personal weapons captured.

#### 6th Infantry Battalion

Under the OPCON of Brigade "B", the 6th Infantry Battalion carried out small unit patrols, artillery security missions, and

airmobile operations while supporting RIF missions in Kien Hoa Province (vic XS 618 218). No significant contacts were reported through 10 March when the Battalion was relieved and returned to their Thu Duc Base Camp and placed under the OPCON of JGS. On 23 March, the 6th Battalion relieved the 2nd Battalion and began operations under the OPCON of Brigade "A" in An Xuyen Province (vic VR 904 363). Airmobile operations and infantry sweeps yielded negligible results for the remainder of March.

#### 7th Infantry Battalion

The 7th Infantry Battalion under the OPCON of Brigade "A" conducted CP security missions, airmobile assaults, Eagle Flight operations, and infantry sweeps in An Xuyen Province (vic WR 119 425). The Battalion established a platoon size contact on 12 March along the western edge of the U-Minh Forest, 19 miles northwest of Ca Mau (VR 846 283), that resulted in seven VC killed and the discovery of a large enemy cache that contained the following items: one 75mm recoilless rifle, one 82mm mortar, four machine guns, four BAR's, one B-40 launcher, three sub-machine guns, 10 assorted rifles, one engineer repair shop, 63 75mm rounds, 450 82mm rounds, 95 57mm rounds, 200 B-40 rockets, 120 mines, 10,000 rounds of small arms ammunition, and 400 pieces of sheet metal. Two more enemy caches were found by the 7th Battalion on 13 and 14 March that contained 112 VC mines, 40,000 detonator devices, 200 sheets of tin, seven gas masks, one automatic rifle, one Mauser rifle, one box of machine gun ammunition and one kilogram



of documents (VR 833 283 and VR 834 294). On the morning of 20 March, 7th Battalion units killed three VC and captured another six 25 miles northwest of Ca Mau in the western U-Minh Forest (VR 880 200). The results of this action were almost exactly duplicated on 23 March when the Marines killed two VC and captured six VC two miles to the east of the 20 March action (VR 837 505). Again on 28 March in the same general area, two contacts were established (VR 865 595). In these engagements, two VNMC and three VC were killed. One VNMC was wounded, and one VC was captured.

#### 8th Infantry Battalion

The newly formed 8th Infantry Battalion displaced to the Van Kiep National Training Center on 21 March to commence seven weeks of initial unit training.

#### Division Artillery

Employment of the artillery batteries is found in the operational control summary which follows.

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VJEC OPERATIONAL CONTROL SUMMARY MARCH 1970

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>DATES</u>	<u>OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF</u>	<u>OPERATION NAME</u>	<u>MISSION</u>
Bde A	1-31	21st ARVN DIV	Song Than 748	RIF
Bde B	1-31	7th ARVN DIV	Song Than 808	RIF
1st InfBn	1-9 10-31	JGS Brigade B	None Song Than 808	Res RIF
2nd InfBn	1-22 23-31	Brigade A JGS	Song Than 748 None	RIF Res
3rd InfBn	1-31	Brigade A	Song Than 748	RIF
4th InfBn	1-31	Brigade B	Song Than 808	RIF
5th InfBn	1-31	Brigade B	Song Than 808	RIF
6th InfBn	1-9 10-21 22-31	Brigade B JGS Brigade A	Song Than 808 None Song Than 748	RIF Res RIF
7th InfBn	1-31	Brigade A	Song Than 748	RIF
8th InfBn	1-31	JGS	None	Time
1st ArtBn	1-31	Brigade A	Song Than 748	D/S
Btry B	1-21 22-31	JGS Brigade A	None Song Than 748	Res D/S
Btry A	22-31	JGS	None	Res

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<u>UNIT</u>	<u>DATES</u>	<u>OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF</u>	<u>OPERATION NAME</u>	<u>MISSION</u>
2ndArtyBn	1-31	Brigade B	Song Than 808	D/S
Btry D	21-31	JCS	None	Res
Btry I	1-20 21-31	JCS Brigade B	None Song Than 808	Trng D/S
Btry J	1-31	JCS	None	Trng

# VNN/VNMC STATISTICAL SUMMARY

## VIETNAMESE NAVY:

	<u>Daily Average</u>		<u>Searched</u>		<u>Detained</u>	
	<u>Oper</u>	<u>Empl</u>	<u>Junks</u>	<u>People</u>	<u>Junks</u>	<u>People</u>
<u>COASTAL FORCE</u>						
I	40.9	39.0	32,794	141,121	46	179
II	41.4	38.2	18,814	56,081	14	66
III	50.5	46.8	7,831	31,836	0	0
IV	41.8	40.2	5,648	19,620	0	0
Sub-totals:			65,087	248,667	60	245
<u>*FLEET COMMAND</u>						
PATROL SHIPS	28.9	23.2	1,214	6,103	0	0
WPB's/PCF's	12/37.5	7.2/24.2	8,497	26,037	2	14
Sub-totals:			9,711	32,140	2	14
<u>RIVERINE AREA</u>						
RIVER ASSAULT GROUPS	122.4	120.6	11,049	39,212	0	0
TF 211	81.2	71.5	3,529	12,130	0	1
TF 212	81.7	73.5	6,734	24,674	0	0
			21,312	76,016		
<u>#CENTRAL TASK FORCE</u>	53.0	47.2	1,895	3,406	0	0
			98,005	360,229	62	260
TOTALS:						

## VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS: 27 FEBRUARY - 2 APRIL

VC/NVA:	KIA <u>93</u>	Captured <u>39</u>	Suspects detained <u>16</u>
VNMC:	KIA <u>41</u>	WIA <u>247</u>	MIA <u>0</u>

\*Provided 71 gunfire support missions.

#Includes RAG 27 and RTEG

## PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS AND CIVIC ACTION SUMMARY

Throughout the month of March, physicians and corpsmen from the NSA hospital at Danang worked voluntarily administering approximately 1400 immunizations at the Stella Maris Dispensary, USOM Hospital and the CIDG Hospital. Approximately 500 Vietnamese patients were admitted at the NSAD Hospital in March.

Assistance was rendered at four schools, three dispensaries, and two separate institutions. As of the end of March, all Civic Action operations at Danang were terminated.

Seabee Teams of the Third Naval Construction Brigade conducted a total of 435 medical treatments in March. Donations of clothing, foodstuffs, soap, toys, lumber, cement, building supplies, medicine, and \$74,630 VN were made through the 3NCB Civic Action program. There were 106 Vietnamese students who received English language instructions from the Seabees.

CTF Clearwater at Dong Ha RIVSECGRF conducted a Medcap at Vinh Giang (ZD 060 108). Vietnamese nurses assisted hospital corpsmen, PBR ACTOV personnel, and PBR crewmembers in treating 80 children and adults and in distributing 150 dental kits. The VN nurses did the majority of the diagnosis and treatment. Skin infections

were the major medical problem.

PCF and PBR forces in the Cu Dao Dung Island AO, general vicinity of XR 20 76 to 35 53, have noted a significant increase in the effectiveness of their Chieu Hoi rate and feel that it is due to aggressive waterborne loudspeaker missions. A total of 12 Hoi Chanh rallied to USN/VNN forces throughout the Republic of Vietnam in March.

A U. S. Navy Medcap team at Moc Hoa (XS 028 910), located 60 miles east of Saigon, transported the daughter of a recent Hoi Chanh to visit the Chieu Hoi Center at Moc Hoa. Leaflets were then printed showing the father-daughter reunion which emphasized the sincerity of the Chieu Hoi program's promise to reunite ralliers with their families.

A request for Psyops material on 6 March by CTF 212 at Binh Thuy, located four miles northwest of Can Tho, is an example of the type and quantity of material which is distributed by a single unit for this purpose. The request included 2,000 Vietnamese government flags, 2,000 bars of soap, 1,000 tooth brushes and tubes of tooth paste, five bails of clothing, 1,000 plastic cups, and 1,000 bottles of baby vitamins.

On 1 March, a second brick making machine arrived at the Sea Float community on board the USS ANTELOPE and went into operation the following day. The new school at the Tran Hung Dao II settlement was nearing completion in early March. The location of the school site had been changed to better conform with the general building scheme in the area. Bricks have been hauled to THD-2 for the flooring of the school and for various other projects. The Tran Hung Dao II development now contains a laundry, two cafes and stores, a physician's office, and a pharmacy. Work at the THD-1 market was progressing slowly during March, but was expected to pick up as more laborers were being sent by the contractor.

# USM CIVIC ACTION STATISTICAL SUMMARY

TOTAL NUMBER OF MAN-DAYS\* PERSONNEL OF UNITS ENGAGED IN CIVIC ACTION PROGRAMS: 3,567

COST OF SUPPLIES CONTRIBUTED BY MILITARY RESOURCES FOR CIVIC ACTION PROGRAMS: VN\$ 42,780,157

EXPENDITURES FROM THE US/FWMAF CIVIC ACTION PSYWAR FUND: VN\$ 450,752

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS: VN\$ 214,220

## PERCENTAGE OF U. S. MILITARY CIVIC ACTION ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED JOINTLY WITH:

Other FMAF		<u>1.2</u>
RVNAF		<u>43</u>
U. S. civilian voluntary agencies		<u>.9</u>
Average percent of self-help by VN civilians:	Labor	<u>29.4</u>
	Material	<u>27.4</u>

## PROGRAMS

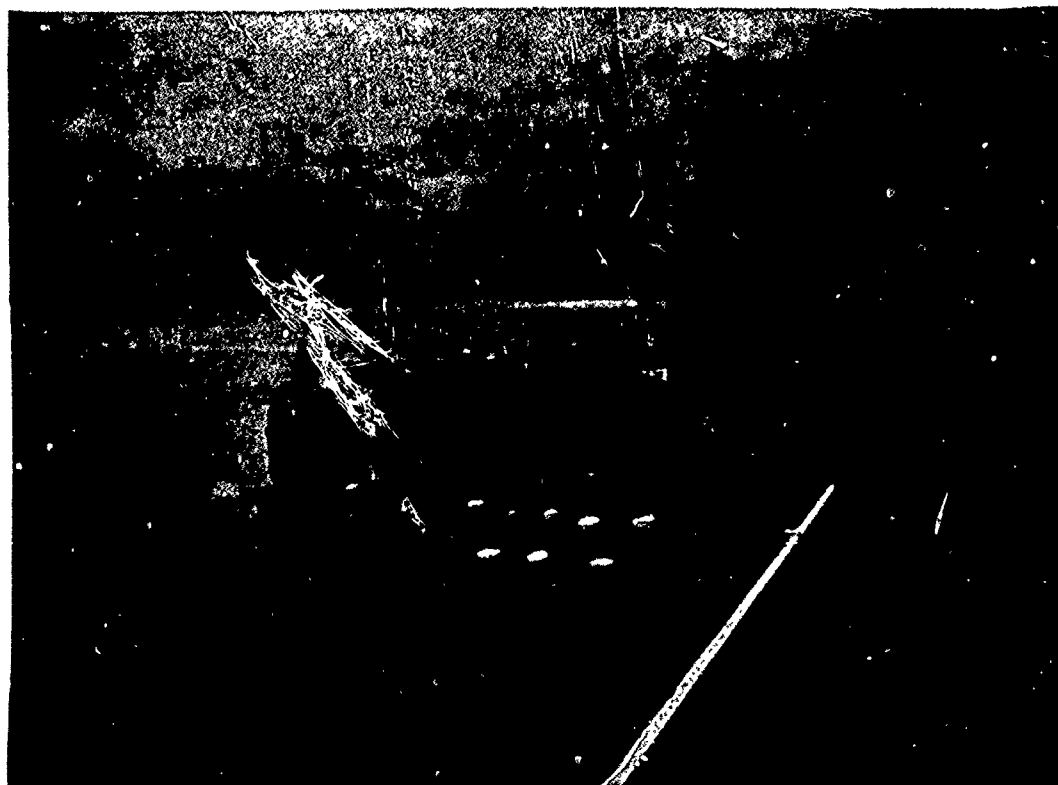
	<u>Man Days</u>	<u>Expenditures (VN\$)</u>
Economic Development	<u>323</u>	<u>110,900</u>
Education	<u>263</u>	<u>573,736</u>
Social Welfare	<u>840</u>	<u>749,712</u>
Transportation	<u>2,141</u>	<u>41,796,568</u>
Refugee	<u>181</u>	<u>175,831</u>

## INSTITUTES ASSISTED

	<u>Number</u>
Schools	<u>18</u>
Orphanages	<u>16</u>
Hospitals/Dispensaries	<u>12</u>
Others	<u>36</u>

\* One Man-Day equals one ten hour working day





Coast Guard Division 12 turned over the 82 foot patrol boats POINT KENNEDY and POINT YOUNG to the Vietnamese Navy on March 16 in a ceremony at Danang. Coast Guard Division 12 was decommissioned in the ceremony, leaving only one Coast Guard division in operation in the Republic of Vietnam.

# ACCELERATED TURNOVER PROGRAM AND TRAIDIG SUMMARY

On 7 March at 0800h, Tran Hung Dao I, one of the first SEAIGRDS operations, was transferred to VNN command. Operational command was assumed by LCDR Dinh Vinh Giang, CTG 212.4, located aboard YRBM 20. The operation would continue to patrol from Ha Tien to Chau Doc. By 14 March, the organizational structure of the new VNN command was finalized and the following units assigned:

<u>Task Desig.</u>	<u>Operational</u>	<u>Location</u>
CTG 212.4/CTG 194.8	CDR TRAN HUNG DAO I	YRBM-20
Senior Advisor CTG 212.4		LCDR P. T. SOUVAL, USN
TU 212.4.0/TU 194.8.0	TRAN HUNG DAO I Deputy Commander	YRBM-20
TU 212.4.1/TU 194.8.1	TRAN HUNG DAO I Western Sector Command COSGRU 41/42/43/44 RIVDIV 515 CCSDIV 11 MINEDIV 13 RAD 151	Ha Tien Ha Tien Ha Tien Ha Tien Ha Tien Ha Tien
TU 212.4.2/TU 194.8.2	TRAN HUNG DAO I Central Sector Command Vacant	Vinh Gia
TU 212.4.3/TU 194.8.3	TRAN HUNG DAO I Eastern Sector Command RPG-54 RPG-KSB RIVDIV 532	Tinh Bien YRBM-16 YRBM-20 YRBM-20

7 March marked the formation of RID 40 as 15 RAC's (one CCB, one Zippo, six ASPB's, and seven ATC's) were turned over by CCM-RIVSTRIKORU and accepted by CTF 214 at Ben Luc, the homeport of the new RID. RID 40 was the first group of craft to be turned over

with secure voice equipment, KY-8 units having been installed in six of the craft on 5 March. The new unit was then assigned to the operational control of CTU 194.9, and on 9 March, the Commanding Officer, 194.9, was ordered to assume CTU 194.9.2 and to deploy to the following Slingshot areas: 194.9.2 became the Go Dau Ha Interdiction Unit and was comprised of ten boats, six Alpha and four Tango; the remaining five craft chopped to 194.9.3 at Ben Keo commanded by LT J. W. Frenzinger, USN, with the senior AID HQ officer in charge of the five Vietnamese boats.

The U. S. Coast Guard also continued its turnover program in March as two more WPB's, the POINT YOUNG and the POINT KENNEDY, were transferred to VN control on the 16th. Captain David E. Perkins, USCG, Commander of Coast Guard Activities, Vietnam, turned over the 80' cutters, and Captain Ho Van Ky Thoat, VN, Commander First Coastal Zone, accepted on behalf of the Vietnamese government. The event increased to 15 the number of WPB's turned over, out of a total of 26, and brought to an end the Coast Guard's Patrol Division which had been operating since July 1965. And on 27 March, the POINT PARTRIDGE was transferred to the Vietnamese Navy at Cat Lo.

The ACTOVOPS Program continued in I Corps as the Sea Tiger operation changed to combined control on 3 March. The Commanding Officer of Coastal Group 14 assumed the position of Deputy Commander. It was projected that the current USN Commander of Sea Tiger would be relieved on 30 April by the Commanding Officer, CG 14, at which time, the Combined Command Operations Center would be relocated from

Hoi An to CG 14 headquarters on the Cua Dai River. At the time of the combined manning, the following units were assigned to Sea Tiger:

USN

RIVDIV 543 FBR's  
CTE 194.1.5.1 Duffle Bag Team  
Snipers  
UDT Team 11, Det HOTEL

VNN

CG-14 Junks and Skimmers  
CTG 115.1 VNN/CTG 213.1 PCF's  
UDT and Assault Team

And on 20 March, LCU 1477 and YOG 71 were turned over to the Vietnamese Navy at Danang.

Training, the most crucial part of the ACTOV effort, proceeded in March with the usual gains made and losses incurred. The most important single event was the commencement of the first basic training class for the VNN UDT/SEAL Teams on 2 March at the Cam Ranh Bay Market Time Base; 59 trainees were enrolled. Numerous sailors, with varying degrees of "A" school and other preparatory training were assigned to OJT with different units throughout the country in everything from harbor defense to M-60 maintenance. As for the Marines, 152 recruits were graduated from the VNMCTC at Lamson, and on the same date, 50 VNNC officers graduated from the Reserve Officers Training School at Thu Duc.

On the negative side, unauthorized absences and discipline remained problems. Project START, for instance, was forced to drop 11 "A" school graduates, mainly for reasons of chronic UA and disciplinary action.

On the whole, however, the training effort was proceeding according to plan. The Naval Training Center at Nha Trang produced

the following outputs in March: 47 ET's, 32 KI's, 58 DC/SF's, 183 E's, and 137 graduates of BE/E training. The Naval Academy Class 50 commenced in March with 269 mid-shipmen. In addition, 62 mid-shipmen were enrolled on 9 March at OCS, Newport, Rhode Island.

Craft and base maintenance training continued in March with 3,493 VNN personnel in various stages of training (47.5% of projected requirements based on the new VNN ceiling of 39,611). As of 31 March, 237 craft maintenance personnel had been located at USN bases. Base maintenance trainees as of 31 March numbered 739, 300 of which were enrolled in the Philco-Ford base maintenance program at Danang. On 16 March, six VNN engineering designated officers were ordered to the following NSA detachments to train as prospective Repair Officers: Binh Thuy, Cat Lo, Nha Be, Dong Tam, and Cam Ranh Bay.

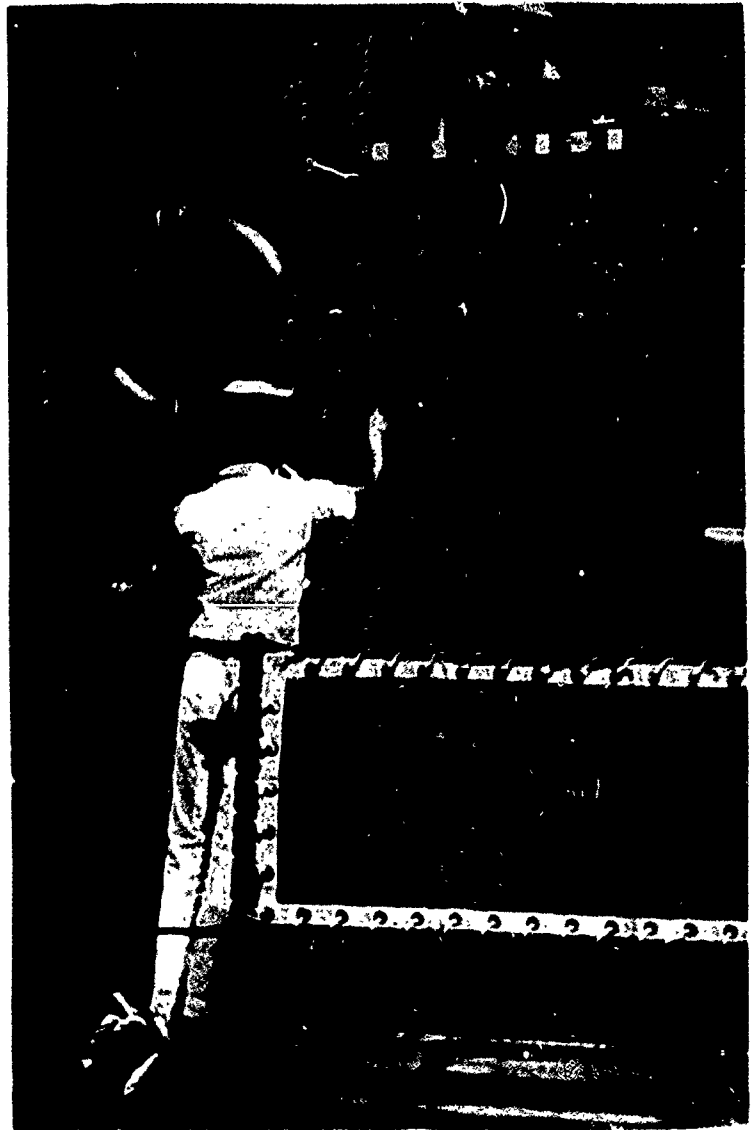
In general, the ACTOVLOG Program could be said to be going well although a shortage of technical manuals hampered the formal training and CBT programs alike, especially in the areas of boat propulsion and auxiliary systems. By far the most major problems was insufficient personnel in the craft maintenance program, a shortfall having developed in February and March. The Saigon Maintenance School had not been filled during that time, and only 20% of the CCOS Craft Maintenance Technical English Course had been subscribed. The primary cause of this problem had been the delay in recruiting in January and February while awaiting approval of the new force level. This was regarded as a short term problem, however, and the quotas were expected to pick up by June.

At the beginning of March, work was progressing on dependent shelters at 13 sites with 463 units under construction and 645 units completed. The site fill project at Cua Long was complete, and the same project at An Khanh was 25% complete, making for an additional 222 family units in the Saigon area. By the end of March, construction was underway at 16 different sites with 653 units completed and 537 under construction. In October 1969, \$900,000 had been appropriated from MILCON funds for the first 1,500 shelters. In March 1970, the program was expanded by the addition of 550 E-3, non-group VIII personnel.

Funding for the entire dependent shelter program had been predicated on the availability of no-cost, excess construction materials and troop labor. Accordingly, appeals were made in March to Naval Supply Systems Command and its subordinate branches for excess lumber, sheet metal, and nails. CINCPACFLT advised his component commands to expedite the shipment of all Project Handclasp materials destined for Vietnam. As for the labor problem, 550 E-3, non-group VIII personnel (NAVCATS) were assigned to shelter sites throughout the country. Even with this, the hire of local laborers at such sites as An Thoi was required.

As for the food supplement program, five additional bases, including An Thoi and Danang, were supplied with 200 broilers and feed for their initial programs in March. This addition brought the total

number of "pig and chicken" projects to 21 with 36 swine, 3,300 broilers, 50 ducks, and 14 rabbits, and animal husbandry advisory team reports throughout the month indicated that the programs were faring well. In marketing enough of the produce from their initial poultry package, 41 personnel at RAG 23/31, Vinh Long, purchased 100 more chicks and thus became the second self-sufficient project.



Minutes after March 27's turnover ceremony at the Naval Base, Cat Lo, the Coast Guard Cutter PCDM PARTRIDGE is permanently erased from the rolls of Coast Guard Squadron ONE by a Vietnamese sailor quick on the draw with the paint roller.



NAVAL SUPPORT ACTIVITY, SAIGON

The Naval Support Activity Detachment (NSAD) Dong Tam reported an explosion which was later determined to have been caused by a U. S. concussion grenade wired as a booby trap. Later the same night, a second similar device was discovered. The NSAD was unable to determine who was responsible for the placement of the grenade. There were no casualties or material damage. The Advanced Tactical Support Base (ATSB), Tra Cu had six instances of movement near the base detected by electronic devices during the month; however, there was negative contact. The ATSB, Ben Keo reported two incidents of electronic detection of movement also with negative contact. Two swimmers were killed, and two watermines were captured during one sapper attack at the ATSB Ben Keo. One possible swimmer was sighted on another occasion. There were no friendly casualties or material damage. There were three mortar attacks on the ATSB, Moc Hoa during the month, and none caused any damage or casualties. One U. S. sailor drowned at the ATSB, Moc Hoa. The sailor was sick and apparently fell over the side. The USS BENEWAH (APB-35) captured two VC suspects on the river bank in the vicinity of the ship. They were turned over to the ARVN for interrogation and disposition. The sentry on the USS IREDELL COUNTY (LST839) fired at an object in the water and triggered an explosion. The incident occurred near YRBM-21 in the Tien Giang River. There were no casualties or material damage.

The personnel status of the Naval Support Activity, Saigon at the end of March was as follows:

	<u>ALLOWANCE</u>	<u>On BOARD</u>
OFFICER	184	182
ENLISTED	3,235	3,336
CIVILIAN	967	967

The USS MARK (AKL 17), YW-126, YFR-889, YFR-890, YFR-866, and the 100 foot utility boats, MONDERO AND MORCCCC, provided routine resupply services during the month. The USS BRULE (AKL 28) returned on 31 March after backloading cargo and PBR's from Subic Bay. She will return to Subic Bay to correct overhaul discrepancies. The USS KRISHNA (ARL 30) returned to Square Bay after the USS TUTUILA returned to An Thoi from repairs at Singapore. The USS ASKARI (ARL 38) was positioned at Dong Tam on 23 March and the USS HUNTERDON COUNTY (LST 838) was positioned at Long Xuyen due to adverse weather in the Gulf of Thailand. The USS SPHINX was on the Vam Co River providing services to Giant Slingshot forces while the USS BENEWAH, USS SATYR (ARL 23), YRBM-16, YRBM-20, and YRBM-21 were positioned on the upper Bassac River supporting Border Interdiction operations. API's 26 and 27 and YR 9 continued to provide additional berthing facilities for the ACTCV Program. YFU's 4, 24, and 59 conducted routine resupply in the Gulf of Thailand while YFU's 55 and 57 conducted crew training at Nha Be.

At Cam Ranh Bay, an excess building was provided and placed in the VNN SEAL training area. The repair of the matting hardstand was completed at Cat Lo/Vung Tau. At Nha Be, the construction of wood frame heads, showers, and berthing spaces on YR 9 was completed, and she then moved to the VNN shipyard in Saigon. The preparation

for the Public Works maintenance training school was completed at Dong Tam. The upgrade of the air conditioning system for the COM-NAVFORV HCC/CJCC Center was 90 per cent complete at month's end. At Ben Luc, the construction on two berthing ammis was completed, and the construction of a mess hall and two berthing hootches was completed at Tra Cu. Construction of three berthing hootches was completed at Tuyen Nhon, and the ACTOV construction continued at An Thoi, Cat Lo, Dong Tam, Ben Luc, Rach Soi, Ha Tien, and Binh Thuy.

#### Maintenance and Repair Support

##### TF-115

Six new PBR's were received in-country during the month and were placed in storage at Newport until required. The USS TUTUULA, USS KRISHNA, NAVSUPFAC, Cam Ranh Bay, NSAD's Qui Nhon, Cat Lo, An Thoi, and Sa Dec provided routine support for Market Time units while the USS ASKARI was able to provide emergency repairs. The 35 secure voice kits plus two installation teams were sent to the USS TUTUULA and Sa Dec to install and train personnel for support of the PCF's.

##### TF-116

The NSAD, Ben Luc completed the teletype dubbing installation, and the Senior Naval Advisor/Rung Sat Special Zone secure voice installation was completed at Nha Be, Can Gio, and Quang Xuyen. The Communications Center update program was completed at Rach Gia.

TF-194

The depot level maintenance of River Assault Craft assigned to the III and IV Corps Tactical Zones was accomplished at NSAD, Dong Tam. The intermediate level maintenance was conducted by USS ASKARI at Dong Tam, USS KRISHNA at Square Bay, USS SATYR at An Long, and the USS SPHLIX at the French Port. Operational maintenance was provided by YRBM-16, YRBM-20, and YRBM-21 for river assault craft operating in their AO. The development of the conversion package to convert LCM-6's to IPPC rechargers was in progress at month's end. The lack of support parts for the existing rechargers resulted in units becoming less reliable as operating hours increased.

The following personnel and craft were supported by the NSA Detachments during March:

<u>BASE</u>	<u>OFFICER</u>	<u>ENLISTED</u>	<u>CRAFT</u>
Cam Ranh Bay	144	1,774	45
Cat Lo	130	878	46
Qui Nhon	51	539	34
Tha Be	217	2,228	104
An Thoi	66	494	40
Sa Dec	95	288	29
Binh Thuy	325	1,829	72
Dong Tam/YRBM-17	42	636	147
Ben Luc	84	820	32
KOBASE II	13	270	32
YRBM 16	25	314	78
YRBM 20	27	471	68

The gross and net supply effectiveness for March was 73 per cent and 85 per cent respectively. Total issues for the month were 23,731, and total demands processed were 32,500. In addition, 1,118 back orders were released.

The Navy food management team made field assistance visits to ASTB Phu Cuong, YUBH's 16, 20, and 21, USS BENEFAN, NSAD's Nha Be and Dong Tam, and USS SANCTUARY. Initial outfitting material for the proposed ATSB at Phuoc Xuyen was commenced to be staged. A field assistance visit was made to NSAD Binh Thuy to coordinate STABS support. The STABS depot and MSSC Depot/intermediate spare parts were received, segregated, and stored. NSA Saigon allocated Fourth Quarter 67-70 O&M funds to Detachments and advised that additional funds based on mid-year review had not been received and that funding conditions continued to be austere.

Captain Robert Dise, USN, relieved Captain William L. Siple, USN, as Commander, Naval Support Activity, Saigon on 3 March.

NAVAI SUPPORT ACTIVITY, DANANG

Weather conditions were generally good during March in the I Corps Tactical Zone as high winds or sea conditions hampered coastal operations on only three days with small craft warnings in effect for three and one-half days.

The USS SAFEGUARD (ARS-25) and LCM-8-912 completed salvage of YCG-76 on 10 March. Between 10-12 March, the USS CONQUES (ANL-78) and seven LCM-8's conducted a search for a missing MAG-16 helicopter. The USS CONQUES completed salvage of Ammi Barge 117 on 12 March. On 15 March, the Naval Support Activity Detachment (NSAD), Tan My was closed as port operations were turned over to the U. S. Army 863rd Transportation Command. Also on 15 March, the rock shipment/offload at Dong Ha was completed. The Cua Viet and Dong Ha lines of communication were closed on 15 March. The USS CURRENT (ARS-31) completed salvage of the LUSTEVECO (MSTS Contract) Barge LO 702 on 20 March. On 23 March, the YFU-61 reported heavy flooding while in transit from Danang to Tan My and beached in the vicinity of Mui Chan May Tay. The USS CURRENT completed salvage of YFU-61 on 29 March. During the month, 54 LCU/YFU lifts were required in loading Keystone Bluejay shipping at Danang. In addition to the above specific operations LCM 8/6's conducted 114 harbor shuttle runs carrying 469 short tons and 35 coastal shuttles with 19 amphibious beachings along the I CTZ coast carrying 100 short tons. The YR-41 returned to Danang on 26 March after undergoing overhaul at Sasebo, Japan.

Overall cargo operations for the month of March were satisfactory. Current export requirements and rates of cargo generation suggest a satisfactory situation during April. CONUS shipping projections indicated substantially the same level of import activity in April as was experienced in March. The U. S. Army assumed responsibility for cargo operations at Hue/Tan My ramp sites with the official disestablishment of the NSA Detachment on 15 March. The following is the port operations summary for March:

	<u>OFFLOAD</u>		<u>BACKLOAD</u>		<u>THRUPUT</u>	
	S/T	M/T	S/T	M/T	S/T	M/T
DANANG	118,347	206,924	85,758	142,174	204,105	349,098
CHU LAI	33,952	47,430	6,190	22,918	40,142	70,348
HUE/TAN MY	13,398	22,212	1,835	8,143	15,233	30,355

It is noteworthy that there were no hostile fire incidents reported during the month.

During the month, there were 35,271 S/T of rock shipped to the northern I CTZ. The depot operations at Danang and Chu Lai had a gross effectiveness rate of 95 per cent during the month. The overall Class I situation remained satisfactory. There were five days of supply of A-rations on hand at month's end and 7,002,460 C-ration meals on hand with 921,096 meals due in. The relocation work of the Camp Tien Sha provisions warehouse and the conversion of a portion of the Galley No. 2 to warehouse space was completed. The Philco-Ford camp one galley and mess hall opened on 23 March in support of the VNN base maintenance training program. Negotiations were

completed for transfer of the Camp Carter galley to the U. S. Army with the actual transfer to occur about 15 April.

Fuel issues in I Corps increased in March from the February rate of 1,165,000 gallons per day to 1,375,000 gallons per day. Weather did not cause any significant delays in the movement of fuel to I CTZ ports. The 12 inch JP line at Chu Lai was abandoned and will be replaced by an eight inch steel welded line. NCB-1 will commence putting this line in the first of April with an expected completion date of 30 April. The 12 inch multiproduct line at Red Beach, Danang was repaired early this month and remained operational the rest of the month. Repair ships made underwater surveys of the Seaload line and mooring at Red Beach and China Beach, Danang to get a permanent record of the condition and locations of the line and mooring. On 26 March, common service support for bulk and packaged POL was assumed by the U. S. Army Support Command, Danang.

The following was the personnel status at month's end:

<u>ALLOWANCE</u>	<u>OFFICER</u>	<u>ENLISTED</u>
NSA	397	6,806
YR-71	2	89
TOTAL	399	6,895
TOTAL ON BOARD	372	7,603

During March, 107 personnel extended their tours in Vietnam. There were 751 persons performing base security and 131 persons performing afloat security duties. The following numbers of persons



were performing cargo handling duties:

Hatch Teams	242
Ramp Teams	112
Checkers	133
Admin Support	196
Fleet Air Support	37
TOTAL	720

Civilian Personnel Status:

<u>U. S. Civil Service</u>	<u>Ceiling</u>	<u>On Board</u>	<u>Net Gain/Loss This Month</u>
NAVSUPPACT	63	51	minus 3
COMNAVFORVRED	21	15	minus 2
TOTAL	84	66	minus 5
<u>Local National</u>			
NAVSUPPACT	6,707	6,211	minus 313
OTHER	7,972	6,892	minus 638
TOTAL	14,679	13,103	minus 951

There was an average of 144,732 military personnel supported by the Naval Support Activity Danang in the I CTZ during March.

Project MOCD was 85 per cent completed for Navy facilities and 75 per cent completed for all military facilities. All leasing will be assumed by the U. S. Army on 1 April, and their goal is to terminate 90 per cent of the leases by 30 June 1970. During the month, conversion was completed of the CCPO training facility to allow relocation of CCPO offices. The revetment for ammo storage

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was completed at the Tien Sha camp and an ammo storage area was constructed at Camp Tien Sha. The new MILCO three million gallons-per-day water treatment plant located at the Danang Air Base was still undergoing operational tests. There were a considerable number of failures in the distribution system and several discrepancies in the main plant that will be corrected by the contractor. The operation and maintenance of the Danang East dial telephone exchange was turned over to the U. S. First Signal Brigade on 15 March.

The following was the status of the Philco-Ford contract as of 31 March:

	<u>U. S.</u>	<u>L. N.</u>	<u>TCH</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
On Board 28 FEB	113	1,332	2,009	3,454
On Board 31 MAR	106	1,237	1,726	3,069
ECT On Board 30 APR	110	1,225	1,614	2,949

These figures include program management, personnel in training, and personnel associated with public works, supply, ECR, and LCR. On board figures for 31 March include four AF employees directly hired to replace TCH's.

The performance of the Korea Express - KEANGHANG LTD. (KEKN) continued to be satisfactory during March, and the guaranteed minimum contract requirements were met both seacide and pierside. The following reflects the cargo handled by KEKN during the month:

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TOTAL S/T	165,697 S/T	276,566 N/T
TOTAL BACKLOG	93,783 S/T	173,235 N/T
DAILY AVERAGE THRU-PUT	8,370 S/T	14,509 N/T

There were 210 LCN and 434 TCN personnel employed during the month broken down as follows:

LCNA Country Nationals

Permanent hire in cargo operations - 53  
 Permanent hire in support functions - 80  
 Temporary hire in cargo operations - 77

Third Country Nationals

Seaside Cargo Operations - 143  
 Bridge Ramp Cargo Operations - 55  
 Deep Water Piers Cargo Operations - 164  
 Support Personnel (Admin, plumbers, electricians, etc) - 72

The following facilities were turned over to the U. S. Army:

14 Mar - Cornfield Ramp, Hue - 21 structures - \$156,000.  
 14 Mar - Tan My Causeway - 48 structures - \$2,577,000.  
 14 Mar - Tan My PCL - 38 structures - \$1,227,000.  
 14 Mar - Tan My Cantonment - 134 structures - \$211,590.  
 26 Mar - NE Tank Farm - 20 structures - \$85,000.  
 26 Mar - NW Tank Farm - 40 structures - \$332,500.  
 26 Mar - Marble Mountain Tank Farm - 14 structures - \$136,000.  
 26 Mar - Package PCL, Danang - 16 structures - \$89,000.

On 28 March, 31 structures valued at \$39,240 at NSAD, Sa Huynh were turned over to the ARVN. On 19 March, the U. S. Army 26th General Support Group assumed responsibility for SERVMART operations at NSAD, Phu Bai and took over the facility.

There were 827 patients admitted to the station hospital at Danang during March. Of these, 228 were battle casualties, 39 for minor surgery, 195 for major surgery, and nine malaria admissions. There were 11 single amputation, five double amputations, two triple amputations, and one quadruple amputation. The average daily patient census for March was 159 with 159 beds occupied at month's end. Throughout the month, physicians and corpsmen from the NSA hospital have voluntarily worked at the program of administering prophylaxis immunization to school and orphanage children in the Danang area. Approximately 1,400 DT and DPT vaccines were given. Medcaps were held at Stella Maris Dispensary, USON Hospital, and CIDG Hospital. Approximately 34 patients were cared for each week during the month. Weekly dermatology, orthopedic, medicine, surgical, and urology clinics plus opthalmological care were held at the NSA hospital for those in need of these services. There were no in-patient Vietnamese at month's end. The average daily Vietnamese in-patient census was six with 16 admissions during the month.

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THIRD NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BRIGADE

During March, all significant tactical incidents involving Seabees continued to occur in the southern portion of the I Corps Tactical Zone. Of major importance were the mining incidents on QL-1 south between Danang and Landing Zone Baldy. One Seabee, E03 Leonard M. Ackerman, USN, was killed and two Seabees were wounded as a result of these incidents. In addition, 13 marines were wounded on a Seabee truck that detonated a mine in a bottom pit near Landing Zone Baldy.

During March, the major effort in the line of communication road upgrade program was again directed towards QL-1 south of Danang between the villages of Thanh Quit and Tu My. There was also a substantial amount of effort directed towards a 2½ inch asphaltic concrete overlay of the Hai Van Pass. Per cent complete as of 31 March for the above sections are shown below:

**Thanh Quit - Cay Lay River**

Fill - 100 pct.

Base - 98 pct.

1st lift - 45 pct.

2nd lift - 0 pct.

**Ly Ly River - Tu My**

Fill - 48 pct.

Base - 21 pct.

1st lift - 0 pct.

2nd lift - 0 pct.

**Hai Van Pass - 30 per cent.**

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Maintenance also continued on route ML-13C, ML-12E, ML-12W, ML-1C and ML-1D. In the I CTZ, the shoulder upgrade on QL-1 continued between the Lang Co Bridge and the city limits of Hue.

Work on the aircraft shelter continued during the month with seven shelters under construction, five shelters complete except for concrete covers, and 102 shelters fully completed. There were eight shelters for the Fleet Air Support Unit, Danang Air Base under procurement and not yet scheduled for construction. There were 122 shelters in the total approved program. Forty-eight shelters that were not yet under construction were cancelled by III MAF.

Construction was commenced on the Quang Tri highway bridge on route QL-1. This 901 foot, two lane highway bridge consists of ten spans of pile and steel girder construction and is the last major highway bridge scheduled for completion by the Seabees. At Phu Bai Airfield the patching and overlay of taxiways continued with the runway overlay scheduled to begin on 1 April. The runway construction schedule provided for minimal runway downtime for both military and civilian aircraft. The construction of the third of four secondary bridges north of Hue was completed during March with construction of the fourth scheduled to begin in the near future. The site grading and compaction for the Hue detention facility was completed during the month. CORDS had approved the revised building layout plan, permitting vertical work to proceed. The overall project completion was scheduled for early May. Work on the ACTOV bases in the IV Corps Tactical Zone continued at Ha Tien, Long Phu, Kien An, Nam Can, and

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Rach Soi. The facility at An Thoi was completed and work at Ha Tien was 97 per cent complete. The Rach Soi construction was 32 per cent complete, while extensive fill work continued at Nam Can. Sufficient fill has been obtained to permit construction of the ATSB to commence, and the facilities are 38 per cent complete. Materials and equipment have arrived at Long Phu and Kein An and construction will commence in April.

Naval construction forces have a projected backlog amounting to 29 weeks of horizontal work and 16 weeks of vertical work. The programmed backlog amounts to an additional three weeks of horizontal and two weeks of vertical work.

The following was the logistics status during the month:

In-Country shipments:

	Phu Bai	Chu Lai	Dong Ha	Delta Project	Total
Material (S/T)	1,907	169	1,301	287	3,665
Material (M/T)	2,037	590	1,203	342	4,172
Equipment (Pieces)	1	8	0	0	9

Material status:

	Issues	Receipts	Total Inventory
Project Material (\$000)	1,545	568	9,374
Tactical Support Functional Components (TSFC) (\$000)	2,036	718	7,055

Repair Parts:

	Issues	Receipts	Total Inventory
Dollar Value (\$000)	213	222	1,100
Line items	2,545	1,725	20,161

Equipment deadline:

	Total Equipment	Number Deadline	Per Cent
HMCSB organic	1,482	69	4.6
32 HCR Augment	739	64	8.2

Number of pieces shipped: 108

Number of pieces scheduled for shipment: 5

The following was the personnel status at month's end:

Military:

	<u>Ceiling</u>	<u>On Board</u>
OFFICER	133	134
ENLISTED	3,707	3,639
TOTAL	3,840	3,773

Civilian:

Regiment Headquarters - 153 (60TCN, 93 Vietnamese)

NMCCB - 441

The following awards were presented to Third Naval Construction  
Brigade Personnel during March:

Distinguished Service Medal - 1

Legion of Merit - 1

Bronze Star - 1

Navy Commendation - 6

Navy Achievement - 19

Combat Action Ribbon - 36

Purple Heart - 4

Good Conduct - 1

On 4 March, RADM J. G. Dillon, CEC, USN, was relieved by RADM  
A. R. Marschall, CEC, USN, as Commander Third Naval Construction  
Brigade.



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From 2-4 March, RADM S. R. Smith, CEC, USN, Commander Naval Construction Battalions, U. S. Pacific Fleet, visited the Third NCB and participated in the change of command briefings.

On 4 March, LOEN H. Nickerson, USMC, CG, III MAF, VADM E. R. Zumwalt, Jr., USN, COMNAVFORV, and LOEN H. X. Lam, I Corps Commander, participated in the Commander Third Naval Construction Brigade Change of Command.

On 9 March, the Commander Third Naval Construction Brigade flag was relocated from Danang to Saigon. The Deputy Commander and administration remained at Danang. Incident to the relocation, the Commander Third Naval Construction Brigade administration, construction, logistic, and equipment functions in the I CTZ were assumed by the Commander 32nd Naval Construction Regiment.

On 17 March, RADM J. Appleby, SC, USN, Commanding Officer, Naval Supply Center, Oakland, visited the 32nd Naval Construction Regiment and was briefed on the logistical aspects of the Naval Construction Force operations in Vietnam.

The Naval Mobile Construction Battalion FIVE deployed to the Republic of Vietnam on 20 March for the fifth time to relieve NMCB-1 at Camp Haskins in Danang and assume responsibility for the large construction program in support of ACTOV in the IV Corps Tactical Zone.

From 1-17 March, CAPT C. G. Miller, CEC, USN, Chief of Staff, COMCENAC, was briefed by the Commander 32nd Naval Construction Regiment and inspected construction sites throughout the I Corps.

ADM J. V. Bartlett, CEC, USN, Vice Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command and RADM A. R. Marschall, CEC, USN, COMTHIRNCR, were briefed on Naval Construction Force Operations and visited construction sites throughout the I Corps Tactical Zone from 27-30 March.

**APPENDIX I**  
**GLOSSARY OF ABBREVIATIONS**

The following abbreviations and terms are commonly used in the combat zone by all agencies and are listed here in amplification of those used in the text:

ABF	Attack by fire
AMMI PONTON	A multi-purpose barge, standard size is twenty-eight feet by ninety feet
AO	Area of operations
ARVN	Army of the Republic of Vietnam
ASPB	Assault Support Patrol Boat
ATC	Armored Troop Carrier
ATSB	Advance Tactical Support Base
A/W	Automatic weapons
BLACK PONY/BRONCO	OV-10 Twin Engine Turboprop Counterinsurgency Aircraft
CCB	Command and Communications Boat
CG	Coastal Group
CHICOM	Chinese Communist
CIDG	Civilian Irregular Defense Group- mercenaries of Vietnamese, Laotian, Cambodian descent who fight primarily around their own villages
CMD	Capital Military District
CONUS	Continental United States
CRIP	Civilian Reconnaissance Intelligence Platoon

CS	Tear gas grenades
CTZ	Corps Tactical Zone
CZ	Coastal Zone
DELTA HAWK	Mohawk OV-10 aircraft
DUSTOFF	Medical evacuation by helicopter
ENIFF	Enemy initiated firefight
FOB	Forward Observation Base
FSB	Fire Support Base
FWMAF	Free World Military Assistance Forces
GDA	Gun Damage Assessment
GVN	Government of Vietnam
HAFT	Helicopter Attack Fire Team
H&I	Harassment and Interdiction Fire Support
JGS	Joint General Staff (Vietnamese)
KIT CARSON SCOUTS	Former Viet Cong who have come over to the side of the Saigon government and serve with allied military units
LAFT	Light Attack Fire Team (OV-10's)
LAW	Light Anti-tank Weapon
LCPL	Landing Craft, Personnel, Large
LDNN	Vietnamese equivalent of USN Underwater Demolition Team
LHFT	Light Helo Fire Team
LOH	OH-6 Light Observation Helicopter
LRRP	Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol

MACV	Military Assistance Command, Vietnam
MATSB	Mobile Advance Tactical Support Base
MEDCAP	Medical Civic Action Program
MONITOR	Heavily armored LCM-6 (40mm cannon or 105mm Howitzer)
MRB	Mobile Riverine Base
MRF	Mobile Riverine Force
MSB	Minesweeper, Boat
MSD	Minesweeper, Drone
MSF	Mobile Strike Force - mercenaries who deploy and go anywhere
NGFS	Naval Gunfire Support
NILO	Naval Intelligence Liaison Officer
NIOTC	Naval Inshore Operations Training Center
NOD	Night Observation Device
NVA	North Vietnamese Army
OINC	Officer in Charge
OJT	On the Job Training
PBR	Patrol Boat, River
PCF	Patrol Craft, Fast (Swift Boat)
POW	Prisoner of War
PRU	Provincial Reconnaissance unit
PSA	Province Sector Advisor
Psyops	Psychological Operations
RAD	River Assault Division
RAG	River Assault Group (VNN)

RAID	River Assault and Interdiction Division (VNN)
RAS	River Assault Squadron
RF/PF	Regional Forces/Popular Forces
RPG	Rocket Propelled Grenade or River Patrol Group
RSSZ	Rang Sat Special Zone
RVNAF	Republic of Vietnam Air Force (or Armed Forces)
SAR	Search and Rescue
SEAWOLF	UH-1B Helo, heavily armed, USN operated
SHADOW	C-119 aircraft
SKIMMER	20' fiberglass motor boat
SLICK	UH-1B Helo, USA operated
SPOOKY	C-47 aircraft
SSB	Swimmer Support Boat (skimmer)
STAB	Strike Assault Boat
SCATTOR	Small Craft Asset, Training, and Turnover
SHOTGUN 49	Call sign for Army OIA aircraft
START	Swift Training and Rapid Turnover
TAOR	Tactical Area of Responsibility
USARV	United States Army, Vietnam
VNMC	Vietnamese Marine Corps
VNN	Vietnamese Navy
ZIPPO	Flame thrower equipped ATC or Monitor